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" " "	142	" 3d "	Movements of Genl Cos.	
" " "	89	" 8th "	Requesting that Cannon be sent to the army at Bexar	
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" " "	24	" 25th "	Measures to be taken by the Council	
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" " "	28	" 4th "	Forces at Bexar	
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" " "	222	" 4th "	Siege of Bexar	
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" " "	23	" 8th "	Appointment of agents to the U. S. &	
" "	30	" 8th	Government of Bexar	
" " "	77	" 13th "	Accepting appointment as agent to the U. S.	
" " "	77	" 13 & 18th "	To Don Augustin Viesca, Gov of Texas & Coahuila	
" "	78	" 18th "	Complaint against Capt P. Dimmit in reference to Col	
" "			Gonzales & Gov Viesca	
" "	79	18th	Ordering Capt P. Dimmit to Remove the Command of	
" " "			Goliad to Collingsworth & protest of Volunteers against	
" "	74	" 22d "	Siege of Bexar and Provisions	
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" " "	134	" 20th "	Political Condition of Mexico & Texas. Volunteer	
" " "			Army, Goliad and Bexar.	
" " "	187	Dec 2d "	Official Correspondence of the Mexican Minister	
" " "			of War in reference to Texas & character of the war,	
" " "	8-24 & 8	" 9th "	& the General Situation	
" " "	173	Jany 10. 1836	Capt J. Brown to Command Schr Liberty —	
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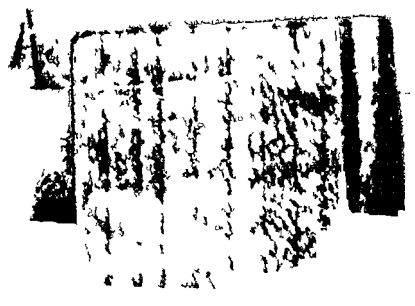
" " "	174	Mch 3d "	Advise Declaration of Independence	
" " "	181	" 31st "	Instructions to J. M. Wolfe, to procure Munitions	



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" "	171	Feby 29 "	Agents to the United States
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Committee of Safety, Lee Capture [illegible] 1 Nov 1835

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" " 171 Nov 4 " Volunteers from the Colonies & Funeral Procession

Childress D.J. 86 Nov 6th Provisions to raise troops in the State of Texas

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Coleman B.M. 135 Oct 30 " Troops at Gonzales &c

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" " " " 266 Aug 9 1835 To the Political Chief of the Brazos.

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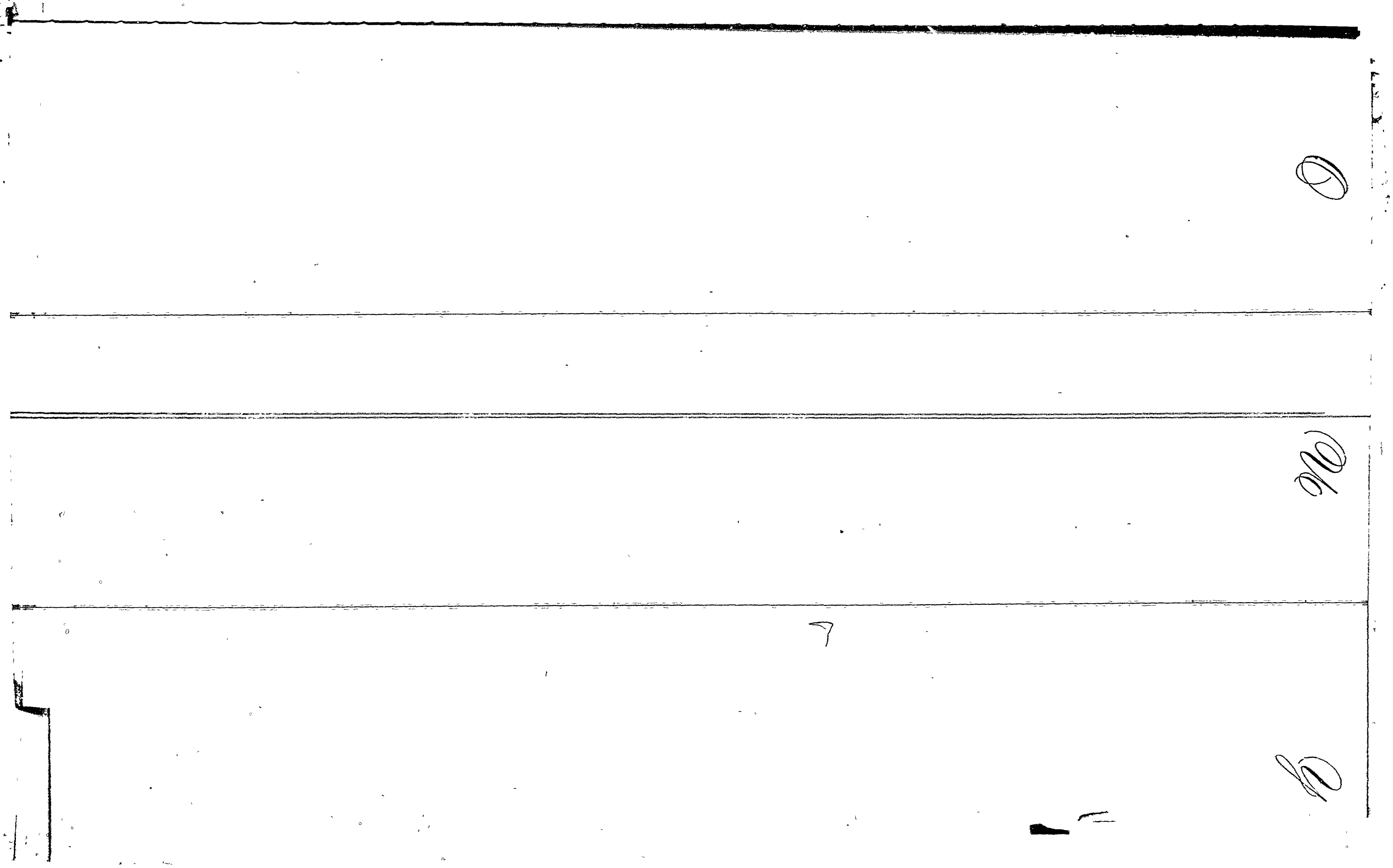

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" "	3	" 17. "	McKinney not to advance money to Mexican soldiers	
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" "	4	May 18. 1836	Capt Dimmitt to sell stores at Goliad &c	
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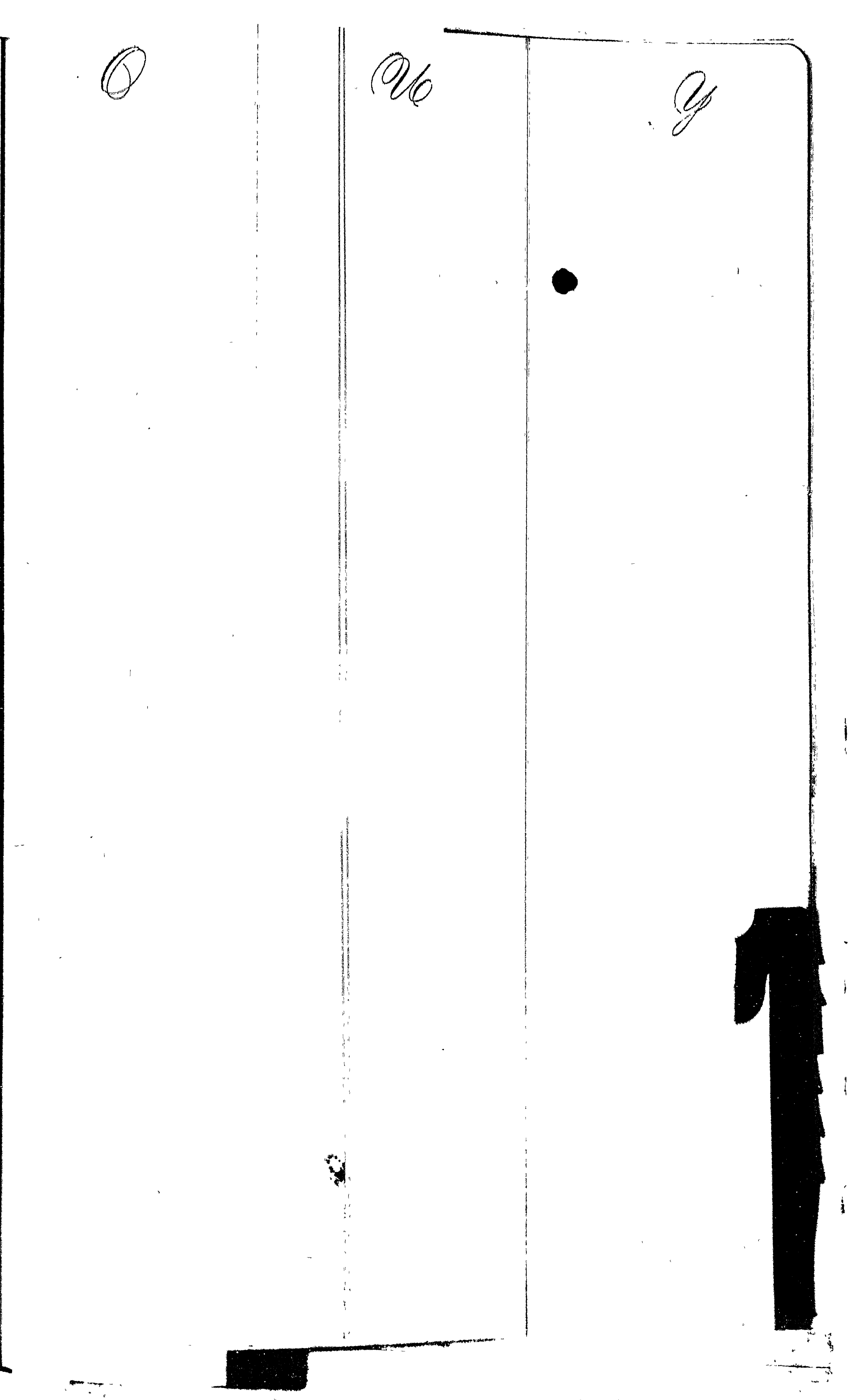

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A. B. C. D. E. F. G. H. I. J. K. L. M. Mc. N. O. P. Q. R. S. T. U. V. W. Y. Z.

To

Edward Burleson, P.G. & Col John W. Smith and Francisco Ruis Esquires,

Gentlemen appointed to treat with the Comanche Indians.

Gen Robinson
To
E. Burleson etal

Gentlemen.

You will proceed on sight or Receivedge of this or so soon thereafter as practicable, repair to the City of Bexar & meet and treat with such deputation of the Comanche Indians, as may be then and there assembled, and adjourn your meeting to such times and places as you may deem best calculated to effect the objects of your mission

The annexed resolutions of the General Council you will ever keep steadily in view as being your guide in the discharge of the important objects for which you were appointed. You will avoid as far as may be consistent with the situation of Texas, the most acknowledgement of any national rights existing in the Comanche Indians, and make and fix no definite boundary between them and the free people of Texas, but you may give the consent of the Government to the said Indians, to hunt, fish, &c in certain boundaries, for and during the pleasure of the Government of Texas,

You will impress them with the sentiments of the Texians, that they are friendly to them, but its continuance depended upon their conduct, that if they remain our friends we will aid them if the centralists of Mexico, make war upon them, but if they are determined upon war impress them with a just dread of the horrors we can inflict upon them, by giving them to understand & be informed of the aid in men and money that we can get and do are daily receiving from the United States, and that the same nation of Indians (the Shawnees) who are in number completely defeated 300 miles near San Antonio, are also our friends and will be arrayed against them in battle with us- & if they do go, [illegible] with us we will utterly Exterminate their tribe and not leave one to tell that they ever Existed and that would pay tribute to none

But the circumstances in which you may find yourselves placed will render it necessary for you to use your own sound discretion, keeping always before you our present Expressed situation and the future importance of the right of soil which these treacherous tribes may invade over, and to which they have no right to claim save that of hunting, temporarily at our pleasure.

duct immediately on corresponding a treaty with the United States, you will send the time to this Department of the Government to be presented to the general Convention, when assembled, as the authority that may decide on the demand of not being able to adjust his disputes with the United States such the Commencement of hostilities you will immediately inform this Department of the fact in order to give notice thereof to your Government in order to enable such Government to give orders to their Commanders of fire Squadrons in the Mediterranean or else where, that you may be protected in the enjoyment of your rights, as an Ambassador from the United States, and that the Commanders of the Squadrons may be instructed to receive on board their ships, and convey to the United States, you your family, Secretary, Interpreters, and such of your property as you may desire to take with you, and to afford you such other facilities as may be necessary for your safe departure.

By order of the President of the United States

James Monroe

Secretary of State

To Col. Gonsales

Department of State

Washington 3d March 1815

Sir

Your name having been selected by the Provisional Government of Texas as a suitable person to explain the Republican principles of the Constitution of 1824 and the rights of Citizens thereunder to the Inhabitants of that Province, and consequently you are required to proceed without delay to obtain the information necessary for the Government of the United States in its intercourse with Texas, you will obtain the immediate Command of the Regiment now stationed at Nacogdoches or such other as may join your Corps.

By Orders

Gen. Gaul. Commd.

James Monroe

Lt. Gov. & Gyoffroi Prest of the Genl. Council

To

Thomas McKinney Esq.

Department of State

Washington 3d March 1815

Sir

The Enclosed will bring you a Commission as a Captain in the Regiment of Infantry now stationed at Nacogdoches, which you will accept, and proceed to join your Regiment without delay.

You will obtain the immediate Command of the Regiment by your name being first on the list of Captains, and such other Officers as may join your Corps.

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James Monroe

Lt. Gov. & Gyoffroi Prest of the Genl. Council

Should the Governor, Council, Representatives, Delegates &c. Congress
Assembled by their Resolves or Ordinances Direct Measures to be taken
and a Time for Opening Every Letter and Packet from the Governor
Secretary or the Commander of the Forces of the United States
Directed to the Board of War

To the Honble
Board of War
Fishkill Dutchess County

Sir

Sam. Inclosed I send you Copies of Letters I have Received
& Wrote Relative to the Expedition Against Canada
To which I beg leave to refer you, Since my Arrival
here I have Received Information that Genl Arnold
Has Arrived at Point Levi Opposite Quebec with
Three Regiments, Two of which are Full, and
Expected Down Every Hour, the Other Two
Companies Each, Which Will Make Him Strong
Enough to Attempt Quebec Before Any Reinforcement
Can Arrive from Montreal, Which Place Is
Left Very Bare of Troops, Genl Thomas Having
Ordered Down All the Troops Except Three
Regiments, Which Are Left to Keep Up the
Communication, & Bring Down Provisions &c.
Which Are Very Scarce, Genl Thomas Is
Now Down at the Cedars, Where the Small Pox
Has Got Amongst the Troops, Which Will
Prevent Their Coming Down for Some Time
Genl Sullivan Is Left Sick at Montreal, Which
Is Very Unfortunate, as Every Thing Depends
Upon Dispatch, Genl Wooster Is Gone to Albany
to Endeavour to Get Provisions Forwarded
with the Greatest Expedition, Which Is
Absolutely Necessary, Every Thing Depends
Upon Dispatch, Should Quebec Not Be Taken
Before the Arrival of Reinforcements, Which
Will Be Here Early in May, Our Affairs
Will Be Very Bad Indeed, Every Exertion
Must Be Made Use of to Forward Provisions
&c. to Montreal, Without Which Nothing
Can Be Done

Your duty arising out of your intercourse with the Genl. Mexic is of a very delicate nature, and much of the minutia must be left to your known prudence in carrying into effect the views of the Council as expressed in the foregoing instructions.

Report to the Council as soon as practicable your views and success in this business, also in what light you view the movements of Robins, as we learn the cannon that Mexico has sent out has been put on her, whether as a national armed vessel or privateer.

With sentiments of Respect,

James W. Robinson
Lt. Gov. & Ex officio
Pres. of the Genl. Council

P.S.

Judge Hanks wishes me to say to you that he is sick and has rec'd. no letters from you lately.

Jas. W. Robinson.

To

Capt. C. Hewett

Same
To
Capt. P. Hewett

San Felipe de Austin Jan. 18, 1836

Sir

In conformity to the enclosed resolutions you will proceed to sell the public property therein specified under the restrictions and regulations enumerated in the same.

You and your brave men are most earnestly requested not to abandon the important posts of Goliad and the Public property in that place, until your place can be supplied by other Troops.

Gen. Sam Houston the Commanding Gen of the army of Texas, will I am fully satisfied, make all necessary arrangements for your relief.

Too much praise cannot be given to you and the patriotic citizen Soldiers under your command at Fort Goliad, and in due time they will receive the rich reward that a free and greatful people has in reserve for them.

I am Your obt. Servt.

J. W. Robinson
acting Govr.

To

San Felipe de Austin Jany. 23, 1836

Same
To
Capt.

Stephen F. Austin, W. H. Wharton & S. T. Archer Esqrs.

A Austins.

In the discharge of my official duty, it becomes incumbent on me, to communicate to you the painful and humiliating fact that Henry Smith Esq. has been and is now usurping

pinn acting as Gouvr. and the Council has preferred serious and
naughty charges and specifications against him, and cited him
to trial, and with a view to give him a fair and impartial trial they
gave him the Election to be tried either by the Council, or the next
convention, and he chooses the latter which meets the first day of
March next, & I would heartily rejoice if that day was come, for our
beloved country & home is now in my opinion in more real danger
than it has been, for party strife and party warfare is more to be dreaded
than fire & sword and surrounding Nations would take measures against
us.

This state of things has grown out of the expedition to Mat-
amoras, the Govr. being opposed to it, and the Council in its favor
and Despite it was so warmly in favor of the measure and I hope in
God it will prosper as it is now under way, & the Late Govr. cannot
stop it, I Hope! ——— He has acted strangely and very unpru-
dently and I fear to the great injury to the country at home and abroad
And I hope you will counteract its baneful
effects as much as is in your power by giving, or withholding this
information until you make the Loan contemplated by your mission
as it may possibly effect seriously the credit of Texas abroad and both
out money and munitions speedily, we cannot predict or imagine the
disastrous consequences to our unhappy and distracted country.
do for God and your countries sake effect a loan of some part of the
one million Loan and send it to the Treasurer or to the Genl. Coun-
cil, for if Henry Smith gets it there is no knowing what he may do
with it $ 5.000 was handed him a few days ago, and he utterly refused
to put it in the Treasury or under the control of the Genl. Council, it
was a gift to Texas from Mr. Mill of Tennessee for Texas.

No intelligence from you has been received, Except a note
from Genl. Austin dated January 1 in the Mississippi River advising us
my dear Friends, For I know you have no object but the salvation of Texas
we are in a perilous situation but I do not despair Hoping to I have fear
of ourselves—

I am now performing the duties of Governor by virtue of
a resolution of the Council and I do most seriously say upon my
honor much against my will, and to my interest, and only effort-bu
the total abandonment of my post has been made by me, to avoid
doing so I have placed with the late Govrs to assist but in vain
the printed enclosed paper will show you our proceedings in this
matter,

The Expedition against Matamoras will go on, the Event
of that measure cannot defeat it,

This moment, we have advices that two vessels with
200 soldiers each from Newport are to be sent for hourly having been
detained at Balmuda it [illegible] is proclamation & copy of
Col. Neill's Letter, since [illegible] information has reached here

that the force at Lipantla is only 80 men and none at Reynosa & that that at the former place is Col. Canalizo & Col. Vergara's, who was ordered to scour the country between Saltillo and the Rio Grande. We have information that Genl. Santa Anna was at that time since at San Luis Potosi but with $70 6000 troops and advancing upon us. But him come, he shall be welcome. I hope we will give a good account of him in our report to the world & I hope that the common enemy meeting his approach upon our frontiers will dispel all little dissensions among us. Great anxiety is manifested by all to hear from you and your success. and I look forward to the day when we shall again meet in our country where a grateful people will reward you individually and collectively for your private virtues and public services.

With sentiments of the highest consideration and Respect I am Gentlemen,

Your fellow citizen
James Robinson
Actg Governor

To
Hugh Love Esq.

You will immediately on the receipt of this repair to the Town of Nacogdoches and exhibit your Commission and these instructions to John Forbis and James Cameron Commissioners appointed and Commissioned to meet with the Indians mentioned in their Commissions & instructions, and inform them of the nature and object of your agency, and ask their Co-operation with you, and if neither of them are there or near that place you will ask the aid and assistance of the good citizens of that place and the adjacent country in Conciliating and organizing the Indians, You will aide the said Commissioners by your advice & Council

Same To Hugh Love

You will conciliate and procure the aid of the Indians on the best terms possible, and to your offers to them will pretends to relations, ammunition and monthly pay, in conformity to the advice of the Advisory Committee, hereunto annexed, and to You will report your proceedings speedily to the Governor & Council, for further orders, assume them of our friendly disposition and view of Texas towards them, and you will ask the Idea of admitting any Indians from the United States of the North into Texas, as incompatible with their interest and that of the people of Texas, That the United States of the North, will support Texas against Mexico by volunteers, that the cattle from Louisiana of Texas, & an army of Indians are marching upon Matamoras, and the Rio Grande Generally, and to further assure them that they shall have all the lands that they may take, and a reasonable share of the property taken

when acting on separate and detached duty, that-they-will
deliver up all spies of the Mexicans that may come among
them, without delay, and you assemble the Saics indians
warriors immediately for the protection of the frontier, and com-
pute yourselves for the with, for further orders to the Governor &
Council, and all officers of the Government are required to
aid and assist you in your conciliatory objects.

January 24, 1836.

Yours Very obt. Servt.
James W. Robinson
Acting Governor,

To

Col. Wm. Christy

Sir,

Executive Department of
Texas, San Filipe de Austin
February 5. 1836.

James To Col. Christy

Being apprised how great an
interest you have kindly taken in the welfare of Texas
in her effort for freedom and the rights of man, I accordingly
send you a copy of a letter from Col. F. A. Johnson of the
Volunteer Army on the Western Frontier, when the division
under Col. J. P. Fannin Jr. has joined him and the combined
army will march against the City of Matamoras, and every
town and village in the valley of the Rio Grande must inevi-
tably fall into our hands, and soon, very soon the invader
-ers of our Country near at Hampton will be made to cower in
fear at the name of an Anglo american: and Fleet will
Co-operate by sea, This Can certainly and combined our
forces will compel the black flag to come down as Matamoras
as they did at San Antonio de Bexar, I entertain no doubt
of success in this campaign, and permanent Independence.

The new convention meets on the first day of March
next and I confidently hope will be able to settle down upon
some permanent basis—.

Recent Circumstances has made it necessary to
Suspend Henry Smith Esqr. late Governor of Texas, and according
to our organic Law and provisions of the Constitution of 1824
of Mexico and of the State of Coahuila and Texas as Lieut.
Governor I was called upon to act as Governor, and am now
in the discharge of that duty, Mr. Smith was suspended from
office and charges and specifications for high misdemean-
ors in office has been preferred by the General Council, and in or-
der to give him a fair and impartial trial, They gave him
his choice either to be tried by them the Constitutional tribu-
al of the next convention, and he chose the latter, twice called to
time his vote in openly and violently attempting to dissolve
the Legislative Council and ordering the arrest of its
members," by a military force, and the transportation of the

most Frontier post, San Antonio) to be tried by martial Law is Treason and the said Smith has been served with a copy of Charges and Specifications of Treason.

The Course that Mr. Smith has pursued merits a just rebuke from and indignant and enlightened people an candorous no serious injury has, or already but (as it should be abused by false reports on this subject I have thought proper to assure you that the cause of Texas is onward under that, these clouds that hang upon the morn of her revolution, will not, cannot, retard her march to freedom and independence.

Allow me to embrace this opportunity to tender you & the liberal and patriotic freemen of the city of New Orleans, for their Kind and Generous encouragement of their brethren in Texas who are "bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh" but words - Language is inadequate to picture the emotions of gratitude that we feel for your Kindness, no the vivid fancy of the Poet, painter or sculptor can lay claim to in attempting to describe the deep emotions of the heart that swells almost to breaking as memory recals our former country and home to minds and the hospitality for which she is proverbial, Great Republic of the north how happy are they sons, blessed amongst the nations of the Earth a light and Lamp to all who wish to be free, accept again in the name of the people of Texas my thanks for your aid & support, and I trust you will never regret the bounty thus early and profusely bestowed

I am with sentiments of great
Respect, Your most ob[illegible] Servt
James W. Robinson
Acting Governor,

To

Col. F. R. Fannin Jr.

Executive Department of Texas.
Washington March 6 1836.

Dr. Sir

Same

To Col. Fannin

Yours of the first instant is just received, in answer permit us to say that unfortunately, we are too much hindered for the benefit of our country such promotion of the true interests to render you that effectual aid you so much need, for they just keep with the infernal fangs upon anything that might be of any service to our country in the already struggle for our rights.

The spirit of liberty rages to our unprincipled neighbors and its votaries, numerous is hourly advancing, the enlivening, to any true friends of the country.

We have serious fictions that invades the organic law we are and are yet clothed with the powers that were for some days however we have not acted officially such no-

[illegible] of the very letters addressed to us by you are requested by others and read and Commented upon before we are permitted to see them, notwithstanding this we feel that we are still legally in office and will continue to act until superceeded by some future Government in accordance with our official duty and our oaths. We have to say and instruct you to use your own discretion, to remain where you are or to retreat as you may think best for the safety of the brave Volunteers under your Command and the regulars and Militia, and the interests of our Country requires and if you shall be instructed otherwise by Genl. Houston who has been by this new Convention confirmed and appointed Commander in Chief of the army of Texas Militia and Volunteers as well as regulars.

2 The bearer can give you all other information necessary as well as if it were here written

As we are informed that this new convention intends to form immediately an other provisional Government therefore when you Communicate again it may be well for you to direct your communications to this provisional Government of Texas.

This moment information has been given that about 30 men has thrown themselves, who bears for aid relief from Gonzales that many more is on the way under Col. Neill. Genl. Burleson ordered to raise the siege if possible. Capt Bennett with 200 men is reinforced me marching for your relief, Genl. Houston has been ordered to the army by the Convention for the 6th, it is hoped he will go to day or tomorrow, but I cannot say how he may order his movements.

The God of Battles shield your and our Country men from harm in the field is the parting adieu of your friends.

Alex. Thomas
Geo. Pattillo
John W. Mullen
} Committee

James W. Robinson
acting Governor

To the people of Texas.

Fellow Citizens—

The General Council of all Texas invested with full powers to direct the Political affairs of the Country

R.R. Royall To sincerely that you should be fully and duly & strictly informed Texas— of the actual Condition of the Mexican Government and of affairs in Texas again address you.

We ask of you to discard from your recollection the thousand rumors you may have heard of the Political Conduct of the Mexican Government and of its intentions towards Texas and to listen to what we may say to you. We have been appointed by the delegates of Texas to represent the Country until

the convention shall meet, and what we say to you is true, and no good citizen will doubt it, we solemnly warn you against the insidious and dangerous efforts you are engaged in, we as solemnly warn you against listening to the equally as insidious and dangerous efforts which are in operation to misunderstand the true condition of things would persuade you that no danger exists - that no unfriendly feelings are entertained by the Mexican Government against you, and that if you stay at home, all will be well. We declare to you that such assertions are not true, and that if you do not open that willful your property and your Liberties are lost.

Under a Republican Federative Government You emigrated to Texas. You abandoned your own dear and native Republic, your relations and friends, and all the tender associations of life. You settled a wilderness and encountered hardships and privations of every kind. You battled with and conquered the Indians, and instead of the country which a few years since, was one wide extended, uncultivated forest, you now present to a wondering and admiring world, one that abounds in plenty, with wealth flowing from every portion, scattered from the Sabine to the Rio Grande - You have added a flourishing, and important country to the Mexican Nation, and for all this you were promised protection to your lives, your persons and property,

In consideration of this protection you were to support and maintain the Constitution and Laws of this Republican Federative Representative Government of the United Mexican States. up to this period you have been faithful observers of them - you have been scrupulously circumspect in adhering to the laws & institutions of the country, and the people of Texas may fearlessly challenge the world and ask "Say what have we offended?" In the form of Government you were content - with the laws you were satisfied, you sought no change and you desired no revolution, you dreamed not of war, and made no preparation - said, "But in the midst of this peace and prosperity, and unperceived security Gen. Santa Anna was secretly undermining the constitution, secretly and deliberately planning the destruction of your form of Government, over which he himself swore to support as supreme chief eighteen months ago he laid the plans of his future operations, abandoning the Republican party, who first made him President, he attached himself to the Military and Clergy & the remnants of the old Spanish aristocracy, He bought from the Country every Liberal of influence and finally drove the members of Congress from their seats at the point of the Bayonet. By his individual influence he caused to be returned to the next Congress, a large majority of the aristocrats - and at

the last sesion of that body he offered a resolution to be passed declaring that the form of Government should be change that the Civic Militia should be disbanded, and that only negro should remain in the hands of every five hundredth man, that the System of colonization should cease, that all Foreigners should quit the Republic, and finally, to consumate his ambitious views, he himself was declared by the same Congress, dictator of the nation, with a bodie of powers, having for his rule and guide, nothing but his own will and pleasure, against these outrages on the constitution these usurpations of power the State of Zacatecas Protested, To compel her into obedience the dictator marches against her, and defeated her citizens in Battle- The town was fillaged and the inhabitants unpardoned by the soldiery And that Gallant and Soverign State, was reduced and made a military garison

The State of Coahuila and Texas also Protested against the same, proceedings of Congress and Gen. Cos was ordered to put her down, He arrested the Governor dispersed and made prisoners many of the members of the Legislature- disarmed the Citizens and Garisoned Monclova- And was ordered with a large force to Texas, But was prevented by the disturbances of the interior from entering until now,

On the 19th of July last the Congress met in the City of Mexico, resolved itself into a constituent Congress- and with only nine dissenting voices, resolved that the form of Government should be changed into a central one, and appointed a committee to report a constitution, The committee reported that there should be a Supreme chief to rule the Nations who should be selected for eight years, ineligible for life, That the Senate should be composed of Twelve members, six Generals & six Bishops to be appointed by the chief, That the House of Representatives should be elected by the people, having a certain amount of property, That the States should be called Districts to be governed by the Military Commandant and a Bishop.

This, Fellow Citizens is the new form of Government under which Santa Anna proposes to bring you and the question arises, have you the right to resist it, The oath you have taken requires you to resist it. But independant of that, you have the undoubted right to do so, The Mexican Government is a confederacy of Soverign and independent States, formed by their voluntary union, Texas, at the time of the adoption of the constitution in 1824 was a Soverign member, as each one of the, that formed the confederacy and the war was waged by the General Constituent Congress who formed the constitution, by their decree of the 7th of May 1824 The form of Government into which it entered was a Republican Representative one, one-

Congenial with the interests and feelings, and determination of her citizens. So Long as this form of Government continued so long Texas was not duty bounde to adhere to it but the moment that form of Government is destroyed, that moment Texas returns to her original sovereignty, and has the undoubted right to reject or acquiesce in any new form that may be proposed. The Republican Federative Government is now destroyed. Texas is now sovereign and Independent, and has the right to decide whether she will come under a new form of Government planned by Santa Anna- formed by the Clergy & Military over which Santa Anna is to be chief.

Texas has decided that she will not submit to the new Government, and the Question is now left to the fate of War- the Strength of arms is to decide the issue, and the American and Mexican Forces are now arrayed against each other,

Fellow Citizens of Texas, One thousands of your number have already gone to the field of War- One thousands brave and Generous Spirits- one thousands true devoted Americans, have already like their Fathers of the Revolution sworn to live Free or die. Like their Fathers of 1776 have pledged to each other "their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" and have sworn to drive any Mexican Soldier beyond the Rio Grande, or to whiten the plains with their bones, The cause in which they are engaged is not the cause of any party- It is the cause of Texas- it is a contest for Liberty- it is an issue in which is involved the life, the property and Freedom of the settlers of our country. They are fighting for Texas by almost universal acclamation has so ordered it, and no man can any longer be permitted to remain a silent and inactive spectator, there is now no retreat and he who is not the active friends of Texas, the Constitution will shortly determine is her enemy.

Will you longer remain Safe? will you longer refuse to turn out? will you still continue to be passive spectators? no, Fellow citizens we believe you will not, we believe ere this you have determined- but now you must be decided no longer, and we entreat you by the sacred and endearing name of Liberty, in the name of your patriotic and devoted Fathers of the Revolution- by all the tender ties that should bind one American to another to rouse from your Lethargy- and march to the field of War. Shall your friends your neighbours- Shall Americans be slaughtered by a Mexican Soldiery, and you not avenge their wrongs? Shall the Rio Grande be crimsoned with their blood and you not hasten assist in the glory? Shall they shout victory from the Walls of San Antonio, and you not be there to join in the

Huzza?

Fellow Citizens of our Common Country, we again Solemnly warn you of your danger— we again tell you that your aid is required, we again Entreat your immediate delay to march to San Antonio, If you refuse, our duty Constrains us to tell you, that Texas is no longer safe, The Convention in its indignation, The army Finally will remember you, The present Generation may brand you with infamy, Posterity will remember it towards your Children, He who does not now protect Texas— Texas will not protect hereafter, He who confers no benefit upon the Country— the Country will confer none on him, The public Lands of Texas are for its Protectors alone, Punishment and disgrace attend for those who are secretly or silently or openly its Enemies, No Annexation— to Freeman, to the descendants of Washington— to the Friends of Texas we have said Enough, when you meet here Freemen, you will know in all probability; that the Blood of our Enemies has Cemented the soil of our Country.

San Felipe 29. October 1835.

W. B. Royall President.

G. W. Morton Secretary.

Camp Cancehtion, 3 miles below Bejar
October 29th 1835

Lieut. S. F. Austin

Sir

Bowie's Famino

To

S. F. Austin,

In conformity with your order of this morning I proceeded with the division Commanded by Capt. Morris, now, Hunt & Field, on the east, with instructions to examine the mission above Espada, and select the most eligible situation near Bejar, for the encampment of the main army of Texas. I have carefully examined that of San Jose, (mission previously visited by Gen. Cos) the nearest to that of Concepcion, and selected my ground in a bend of the river San Antonio, within about five hundred yards of the mission Concepcion, the face of the plain in our front is nearly level, and the boundary line enclosing it forms the river of a triangle, two of which sides are nearly equal as possible, and with the exception of two pickets, a considerable bluff of plain lay to the part of Medina: falls in our rear, the distance of fifty to one hundred yards to the River.

Medina below our encampment, and Salado above, Between Medina and Salado are the two sides of the triangle, in the encampment of the right— Captain Harrison's Company being on the left of the Salado, forming the first division, and Captains Coleman's Company and Jones's Company, (Acting as a Cavalry Corps) Hunt

(Capt Fitz) occupied the north side, under the immediate command of Major Graham, (Capt Lewis, as aide-de-camp) &c.

Thus the men were posted and lay on their arms during the night of the twenty seventh, having out strong pickett guards, and one of seven men in the Cupola of the Mission House which overlooked the whole country the horses all being tied up.

The night passed away, without the least alarm, and at the dawn of day every object was obscured by a heavy dense fog, which entirely prevented our guards or Look out from the Mission, seeing the approach of the enemy.

At about half an hour by sun, an advance guard of thirty dragoons rode upon our line & fired upon a Sentinel who had just been relieved, who returned the fire & caused one platoon to retire, but immediately charged on him. (Henry Reams) & he discharged a pistol at them, which had the same effect.

The men were called to arms, but were unable for sometime to discover the foe, who had entirely surrounded the position, and kept up a constant fire at a distance, with other effect than a waste of ammunition on their part. When the fog rose, it was apparent to all that we were surrounded, and a desperate fight was inevitable, and all communication with the main army, being cut off, immediate preparation was made by extending our right flank (1st Brig) to the South, and placing the Second Division on the left, on the same side so the might be enable to rake the enemy, should they charge into the angle and prevent the effects of a cross-fire of our own men; and at the same time be in a compact body, contiguous to each other, that either might reinforce the other, at the shortest notice, without leaving the angle in an exposed and uncovered ground when certain loss must have resulted, the men in the mean time were ordered to clear away brush & trees under the hill and along the margin, and at the nearest places, cut steps for foot hold in order to afford them Space to form and fall back to reload; the work however not completed to our rear before the infantry came on to clear away with a view to the right of the division, and formed the line of Battle at about the ordinal yards distance, from the right flank, five companies of their cavalry supported them, covering our whole front and flanks - their infantry was also supported by a large force of Cavalry

In this manner the engagement commenced at about the hour of eight o'clock A.M. on monday the 28th october by the deadly crack of a rifle from the extreme right - The engagement was one continued blaze of fire, at first that from our lines was more slowly delivered but with good aim & deadly effect, each man retiring under cover of the hills & timber, to give place to others as first hors de combat - The battle had not lasted more than ten minutes, before a brass, double fortified four pounder was opened on our line with a heavy discharge of Grape and Canister at the distance of about eighty yards from the right flank of the 1st. Division - and a charge ~~sounded~~ - but the cannon was cleared as if by magic, and a check put to the charge - the same experiment was resorted to with like -

succeeds three times: the division advancing under the hill at each fire and thus approximating near the cannon and victory. "The Command victor" was truly the war cry, and thy only fired it five times and it had been three times cleared, and their charge as often broken before a disorderly and precipitate retreat was sounded, leaving to the victors their cannon, most nobly obtained. Thus a small detachment of ninety two men, gained a most decisive victory over the main army of the Central Govt, being at least four to one, with only the loss of one brave Soldier (Richard Andrews) and nine wounded, whilst the enemy suffered in killed and wounded near one hundred, from the best information we could obtain, which is entitled to credit, say sixty three (63) in killed, among them many promising officers - Not one man of the artillery Company evaded untill,

No invidious distinction can be drawn, between any officer or private, on this occasion any more than a Soldier must do his duty regardless of the situation & circumstances, under which he was placed,

It may not be amiss here to say, that near the close of the engagement another heavy piece of artillery was brought up much field piece, but at a distance, & by a mistake account of another company of cavalry, which by fifty mules, ready harnessed, they got off the main army reached us in about one hour after the enemy fled, had it been possible to communicate with Govr and Genl Houston you will notice, the artillery would have been decisive over the Texas army by twelve O'clock.

With sentiments of high consideration
We subscribe ourselves
Your most obt servts
Edmund Bonnie
Aid-de Camp
W. H. Jamison Jr.
Capt. 1st Division

Columbia, 28. Oct. 1835

Hon. A. S. Lovell President of the Council of Texas

McKinney
Williams
To
R R Royall

Sir Felix,

I am directed to communicate to you, and some several others, the ready means necessary to attack our enemies by, and only wait for a Stand to be taken and Commission to be given to Cruise on the coast, the Council desire that the order for by request of the committee of this jurisdiction with in a few days in all probability be here, and will enable us to do for Texas Let me beg of you that either the Consultation - who are present in the offices of the army make some declaration which will serve for a time until the Consultation can meet & grant Commissions, so that vessels can be protected that are out in our seas

Without it our resources may be cut off, and with it we can protect our coast from invasion and keep up our intercourse with The United States,
We will order a Cargo of supplies from N. Orleans immediately, but really, the risk is very heavy, if we have no means of protecting our trade, and may prove ruinous to us eventually, if we should loose two or three vessels, because the articles will be considered contraband, & of course we can get — no insurance on them
We have imported for the Serv a quantity of articles at our own risk, but we wish to prevent this as early as possible, and act upon a firmer footing when we can: We will however continue to order such things as may be required, hoping soon your Sanction may be had to relieve us from risk, for we only ask you to give us the power and we will procure the men & means to protect this coast and our commerce, The Schoon Columbus, has brought two twelve pounders & some ammunition, which we have bought and landed now to day to be forwarded to wherever it may be thought best, Santa Gertrudis and Bejar or to Bejar alone please write us on this subject the importance of which you will see,

Your obedient Servants
Mc Kinney & Williams

Col. Barrett

San Filipe November 4th, 1835

To 1st. The Americans are a free and thinking people, and consider all governments as Consultation originating from, & made for the people —

2d. Such a government is contemplated by the constitution of 1824 - & the laws subsequently made.

3rd. The violation of this constitution and Laws, and the attempt to subvert them by a Military Dictator, and the consequent determination to subject our citizens against their will & consent to another form of government, are the reasons for our resistance and for resorting to arms.

This determination is exemplified — 1st. By attempting forcibly to adopt a central form of government, contrary to the provisions of the constitution of 1824 —

2nd. By attempting to subject the civil to the military power —

3rd. By establishing fortifications & sending Military forces to compel obedience to a form of government & laws made without the consent of the people.

4th. By demanding our citizens, charged with civil offences, to be surrendered to Military Commandants.

5th. By annoying, and endeavoring to destroy our trade.

6th. By arresting and confining the civil Governor and Legislature of our independent State.

7th. By threatening to unsettle and annul land titles made & guaranteed by the constitution & Laws of the Mexican Republic,

8th. By threatning to drive the colonists from their homes, who have settled as Mexican citizens by express invitation of the government, & guaranteed by the constitution.

9th. And by many acts indicating a determined hostility to all the colonists and to destroy all confidence in constitutional protection, and the natural rights of our citizens.

The right to preserve our rights (thus invaded) under the constitution & laws and to put down the usurped power which has trampled them under foot, and restore the full operation of their powers & the establishment of our rights.

the right, to establish inviolably our fidelity to the constitution and laws which we have sworn to support, and unite with the friends of liberty among mexican patriot citizens in the same glorious objects.

Therefore, We declare and resolve to support the constitution of 1824:

We declare and resolve that we are not the aggressors, and that it is our duty to defend our unalienable rights against all who attempt to subvert our liberties, although citizens of the same country,

We declare & resolve that we do not at war with the mexican constitution, as we have understood it & sworn to support it, or with the mexican people.

We declare and resolve that we are at war and fight against the usurper, Santa-Anna, and all who unite and confederate with, aid, support and advise, or command with him in his unjust and tyrannical measures for destroying the established government and the rights guaranteed to the citizens or colonists.

We declare & resolve that we fight for the re-establishment of the constitution and our rights, thus invaded, and wantonly destroyed, as far as power extends.

We declare and resolve, that we will never while a free american can raise a man upon the Texas, suffer its soil to be polluted by the tread, or his usurpations, and that we look first to our cause a just cause- the sympathy and justice of nations, and our omnipotent god, for certain success in all we claim.

We resolve and declare, that we particularly invite our fellow citizens of Texas, of the department of Brazos, to send delegates to this consultation, at its next meeting, and that they in the meantime be invited to unite in the participation and support of a provisional government, until circumstances require the action.

We declare and resolve that a provisional government until contains and defined powers be organized, to continue until the assembling of this convention at aforesaid day,

We declare and resolve that we adopt the foregoing reasons, as was with Santa Anna & his supporters, and that civil war in the Mexican Republic, now exists, and we claim all the rights of the citizens of belligerents, from our enemies, from all the civilized nations of the earth.

The preceding is respectfully submitted to the Honorable the constitution of all Texas in general convention assembled by

D. G. Burnet

Delegate from the jurisdictions of Brazos,

Quintana 12 o'clock at night 11th Nov. 1835.

To the President of the General Council of all Texas.

J. F. McKinney

Sir

To

Post. of consultn

I have only waited home late this evening from the San Filipe, I am happy to say I left her in a situation, from which the Captain entertained no doubt of getting her off, and I have no doubt she is at this time afloat in Matagorda Bay uninjured except the rudder, part of which is injured badly- She will again set out in very few days & cruize from Matagorda to this place until she is taken, or until we are better provided for, The Col. Wm Robins will probably be with her, I left to fulfil my promise to Gen. Royall President of the Council & will not promptly attend to it. I see from a letter which I have from him since

I left here, that Came money is wanted in Camp, you can draw on us for 5 or 600$ at a time until we can make arrangements for getting funds from the United States. Money is so scarce in the country that I am afraid to have you draw more at a time, as we should not be able to meet your Bills.

I presume you are in possession ere this, or am apprised of a letter from my partner to me, in which he seems to entertain no doubt of more money being obtained for Texas. I regret that Milam boy had not reached Matagorda Bay before I left, I presume however he will have no difficulty in getting the large gun, I insisted him on the road, the Montezuma, if he it be, at least, the Mexican armed vessel which infests our coasts, is off this evening, exchanged several shots with her from the San Felipe across the bay on the beach, last Thursday morning, and all we of Quinine one or two balls on board her, we guess could not reach us, and she would not venture to come any nearer, but put out to sea,

I enclose you a letter from Lieut. Moore, which will give you some information as to what he is doing in the cause for which we are all contending,

Yours very respectfully,

Wm. H. McKinney

I will endeavor to get our Bills protested with cotton bales, & if the vessell is still off, will endeavor to get an explosions to turn out & take her with the Steam Boat.

Yrs. &c

Wm. H. McKinney

Swisher's Mill Nov 1835

McKinney & Wms
To
B. T. Archer.

Dr. Friend & Sir

We have forwarded a number of rifle guns and one hundred to be delivered to you, They were not in order as you will see by the bill, because it was authorized that we were in a hurry for them, & could have them more to hand, the Frigate Adams can have had time and the total want of means induced me to give out to citizens near a number of the muskets, We took a number on board the San Felipe, and the Committee of Matagorda will probably take Those or at least a part of them to keep them for the defence of that place. This section is most liable in the event of an attack, for really they have no other resources, the balance of the muskets are sent to Columbia that they can be sent out, but I really think from the present weather, that La Bahia would be decidedly the best place for defence, we also gave to the Provisional Troops some muskets, I hope this will be approved of by you, as the muskets were for the defence of the Country, and they seemed to be needed at that time, in that way as it was impossible to ask for permission to do so, the times have compelled us to do many things, you will please write me on this subject more by first opportunity of the course we have to take, & the arms we have made of the arms, I'd see myself to be more explicit, but I am waiting every thing about the detention of the San Felipe as I presume however very little expense will get her off & repair her, I would it not be well to have this done

and have her put in the service, & return her paying what damage has been sustained to the owners, Mr. Bird Muller & others have had some Cotton & goods on board, which is now injured, in fact to Salty taste, & they seem to think me in the service of the vessel should pay for them, please say what you deem the proper course to be pursued in this matter. The weather was blowing as light as it usual does with Gales inside of the bar, & it would have been a few days to have unloaded her & we were anxious to get out & attack the mexican vessel, Judge Sommerville to M'Elvain Tatom are owners to the possession of the Columbus, Com Hillegas & the Steam Boat, are unwilling to be sued & recommended that damage be equal one to justice owing to the Columbus not having ballast on board & want of room for both Schooners, she was not taken out, damage has been sustained and please say when it must fall and who will have the burthen to bear, this facts being settled all our cause will be satisfied let the result be what it may, we beg't to say the Columbus was unavoidably boarded this morning having struck on the bar going out became ungovernable, & after boarding the Bar could not be got under way until the next day, the surf was immensely high, & fog had enveloped it, until we got into it, the Sarah, Heavy escaped the danger after much difficulty however we got her back over the bar,

Your Friends & Servants,
Mc Kinney & Williams

Copy of a letter received from a confidential friend of Mc. Kinney & Williams, Dated Tampico October 14 1835.

Mr Williams, To R Royall.

"I have much time to receive your communication just received relative to Texas, as the mode by which it goes is not the case of leaving (at) great expedition, however, the Battalion of this town (of which I am incidentally officer) is under marching orders for Texas, being sent by Gregorio Tomy at Coahuila, my friend arrived here from that to Comp a Major in this State, particulars not known, Texas has many friends in this State, I am confident that if Texas sustains herself for a few months, that time will be in favour to her, for the army in the interior of Mexico of more importance to him than ever of Texas, that the expedition will be abandoned for the present,

my friend relative to Texas left here for Mexico two days since, which is now to be days on the road than four days, you will see the well united Texas cause, that will be followed by other States, & Texas will descend many from the clouds this four months be on his march for Texas, with about ten thousand men, I should not be surprised to see Gl. Urrea here in Tampico within 6 or days on his way to Matamoras & Texas, I hope that no doubts are entertained in Texas now, as to the intentions of Mexico towards them Gen'l Proclamation speaks for itself, We swear that not one anglo. american shall be left in Texas. God he will drive you as chaff before the wind"

Yours &c.

Tampico Nov. 7th. 1835

To Gen. R. R. Royall
San Felipe
Texas

Enclosed you have a copy of a letter

of a letter received from a very confidential friend of ours in Matagorda by the Schr. Louisiana just arrived from that place with thirty volunteers, from Nashville, whose $2,000, had been subscribed for the assistance of Texas and from every person we have spoken to, we learn that the people of the United States are only waiting for a declaration of Independence, to flock here in great numbers to our assistance Jas Lamb, who left Velasco, the day before the battle, reports that Genl Austin with about 1000 men was at Matagorda getting ready to go after the Mexicans, which he had not done on Sunday last when the Louisiana left, but a Schooner called the Campeachy, in the employment of the Louisiana, the next day sailed for Velasco with 25 men on board, the Brig Pennsylvania Capt Brown of Baltimore, with 200 men on board, and the Schooner Columbus of N. Orleans with 100 men on board, were hourly expected at Velasco, when they left, for the purpose of assisting in the defence of Texas,

to be retained in further discharge of these duties, I have received communications from you of the 27th & 28th ult. relative to your examination before the Committee of Finance, & the Council of the Provisional Government, & I have also received your communication to Lieut. Hamilton of the 29th ult. & have attended to the several matters therein contained.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Thomas F. McKinney

Quintana 31 Oct. 1835.

His Excellency President of the Provisional Council of Texas
San Felipe de Austin

Dear Sir

Your kind favors of date 27th inst. by Mr Stewart have been received, and contents noted. It is with no little degree of Gratification that I refer to that Council my unfeigned thanks for their confidence in nominating me to be a Commissioner as therein indicated in your communication. The pecuniary means of life &c for the support of the army, which seems to be the object of that Council, I foresee to be easily effected. I have at this moment very little time for reflection or action, and only beg leave to suggest, that in order to discharge the duties imposed in so responsible a charge, an agent should be clothed with ample powers, emanating from an authority, that has now right to give such powers which may not be questioned

I have no doubt that you have been gratified by the communications which I transmit you, in reply to that Council giving the powers in the early issues of Loans for the immediate necessities of the Army, I am happy to say to you Sir, that for the present exigencies, I can raise negotiations can be made on individual responsibility, and on the individual responsibility of McKinney and Williams, backed by our associates, I will proceed immediately to negotiate for small sums to defray, existing demands, until the final consolidation of all types into one, which I hope will be effected in a few days, and to the inconsiderable sacrifice of the Notes imposed upon us, in the exchange of which I have only been governed by fidelity to the undertaking, and I have no doubt that we can readily effect our negotiations which may be sufficient necessary for the wants of Texas

But my duty to a partner with whom I am interested in all business transactions & whose name & I bear mutually, and time, prudence urge from me in accepting such an agency in our individual capacity, Besides I hazard nothing in saying my partner will be as active and can render as essential services to Texas in that way, as your humble, I have not time to say all that I wanted like to say I must refer you for details to Mr Stewart

Very Respectfully your obedient Servant,
Thomas F. McKinney

21

Fort of Grian Oct. 31. 55
12 O'Clock at night.

Fra Sugenham
To
R.R. Royall

R. R. Royall Esqr.

My Dear Sir

Even friendship itself sometimes imposes the painful, and the unthankful task, of becoming the organ of unwelcome - of afflicting tidings; To perform such a duty, is, I fear, in the present instance, my unhappy Lot, But the hour, the silence and the profound repose of every thing around me lends its sympathizing aid, and bonows a momentary gloom, from the event which I am called on to relate, Our ranks have been robbed of one of our number, Your Kinsman, Lieut. David H. Collinsworth, is murdered among the tenants of the grave, about Fourteen hours ago, the bell tolled the interment of his mortal remains, with the honors of War,

I must crave your acceptance for the present of a very brief Statement of the circumstances, which distress I am sure to receive with this unnatural and untimely event, to regulate its details, reserving the details of the Tragedy to be in detail recorded,

On the 29 inst. three Officers, viz. Lt. Mills, Surgeon, the deceased, & A. H. Jones, 1st & 2d Lieutenants, Recommended to three privates, Nicks, Wootten & Atkinson, left this Fort about 4 P.M. for Head Quarters, near Bryan, about 9 in the morning of the same day, 5 of the party returned - Lt Davis returned, returned to the Fort, and reported verbally the death of Lieut. Collinsworth, The Survivors stated that, early in the morning, about 2 miles from this, on the Bryan road, they were fired on by a party, concealed near the road side; that at the onset of the guns Collinsworth fell, and heard to exclaim "Oh Lord", that their horses were instantly frightened, by the yell of the enemy, and ran a considerable distance with them, before they could be thrown off; that when they finally succeeded in making a halt, and held a council, Jones & Wootten only, were willing to return and endeavor to bring off their fallen Companion, but as the rest of the Company refused, all came immediately in together, in the most disorderly, spirited way, they returned, accompanied by eight or ten others, and brought in the body, The person of the deceased was lying in the road, divested of the upper garments, and as the gun was not found, it is highly probable that, that was taken also, His shot pouch and buckets, sash, pocket money, &c. &c, were all found on his person, and brought in. It was shot in the neck, and probably killed instantly, the head & face, known, bore several marks of savage violence, The party that accompanied the Lieutenants of Lieut. to the scene of attack and flight, state, that from every appearance around and on the spot, there can be no doubt, the enemy were a

party of Indians— and their depredations increased, as far as
6 to 9.

I forbear to comment, a full report of the tragedy— & the circumstances which led to it &c, &c, has been forwarded to the Commandant in Chief, and will probably become hereafter the subject of investigation, as they are now of stirring excitement.

I now turn with pleasure from this painful office, to that of regaling the recent occurrences here, now immediately connected with the great object of the campaign.

On the evening of the 30th ult we were alarmed by the arrival of 20 scouts, from the head of Bay Prairie, & mainly— 5 more came in yesterday from the same section of country. This accession of force enabled Commandant to carry into immediate effect, a previous order for the reduction of the garrison on the Nueces, without exposing this fortress to danger in case, by any detachment which the enemy can send against us,

of 4 P.M., Yesterday, Adjutant Fra Cervantes, with 37 men took up the line of march for the garrison above named, with orders to take that post, raze the works, and burn the buildings belonging the public Caballadas, bringing off the arms and ammunition and all other public property in their power to render &c, &c,

Nothing since has been received here from the Commandt, of later date than the 24th ult. Of course it is not in my power to communicate any thing new to you, of the state of our affairs at Bejar,

On the evening of the 28th ult, was forwarded from this fortress to head Quarters, 12 Cases, loaded with flour, Sugar Coffee, Liquor, Salt, Soap, Tea Candles, &c in charge of Maj. Gen. Austin, with twenty five men, we have lost in all from this to the Texas Camp, 86 Barrels flour, as much as has reached us it will be safe to say from at the present time, met with the present information from the main army.

I am glad to inform you that we have every reason to believe that the measures taken by the Commandant of this Fort, in conjunction with those adopted by a few patriotic Citizens, not in the line, for the purpose of drawing the Tawakanee and Indians, in from the scene of Hostilities, commenced on the Stock in the neighborhood of Guadalupe, on the Trinidad & else where, will be attended with the desired effect, Messrs Sam Rice, Wm S. Lewis & Thomas H. Barton, have solicited Commissions by a board of War, to communicate with those Indians, and have been very useful, the big Tawakanee has accompanied the detachment to the Nueces, Col. Travis also, met with them.

It is still here a common received rumour of an intended attack on this post,

Our people are generally in good health, a very fortunate state of things for us now without either Surgeon or Physician the Conduct of Dr. Erwin having been of such a character, as to occasion his expulsion from the Fort, He never(will) be received here again, whilst the The present Com.t continues in office, and is retained at his present post,

It is much regretted here that any one man, should have succeeded in executing so much mischief, as that recently consummated by Dr Erwin, He has injured the public service more in 20 days, than any one man can ever repair; please present me to such as love their Country— and accept for yourself the assurance of my unalterable esteem & friendship,

Yr Sincere,

Matamoras La. Oct. 31. 1835

A. Motehkiss Esqr.

Sir

On yesterday we started a subscription, through the politeness of D. R. Evans Esqr. and have received about $800, in different articles, I have been appointed Treasurer and shall receive all which will be given with pleasure, You must instruct the Texans to haul out all I have to Lend,

The Lynch is returning now back and men quite as many to day, Some of the leading characters have come out & subscribed liberally, and I believe all will eventually come out and assist, the Company, from N.O. left to day at 12 o'clk, But have left the D. Master and 7 men to guard the Baggage waggons, I have sent them out this evening $100, in Blankets, clothing and provisions &c. Mr. Starr in consigning his men to the Mexican Consul at this place, But the Consul has torn down his Signs and stamped it under foot and says he is with the people, The waggons have just arrived this evening at 8 o'clock, I shall load them with arms and baggage &c. for No 1. Texas Volunteers and file off the balance of the Load with Landers, I think you may thank Matamoras for the assistance you may receive from the U.S. as our first Resolutions were read by Mr. Caldwell with great effect in fact, it was these resolutions which influenced the feelings of patriotism among the people,

The Texans is at the Brazos from N.O. I sent in Matamoras, which I sent by you that you may see what they are doing there for Texas

Yr. Motehkiss

Head Quarters Nov. 8 1835.

D. F. Austin

In addition to the usefulness of Dr Richardson, as an agent in some parts of the United States, I have to add that he could be of great use in procuring armed vessels to protect our Coasts &

in collecting men and to have a union in favour of the cause of Texas and of the Constitution, I am happy of the opinion that all the hands for an immediate organization of a civil Govt, and also of an army, with an experienced Military man to command it.

Not one moment should be lost in doing this, all- every thing depends upon it- delay will be ruinous. There must be a Govt, to give confidence in System

Yours respectfully
S. F. Austin

The Communication of the Council of 30, ult, giving an account of the supplies, Clothing, Cannon &c, on the road have been read, and have given just satisfaction -- -- on principals,

S. F. Austin

S. F. Austin To Committee of 12.

1st. A Declaration conforming the pronouncements made by the people at their municipal meetings to sustain the Federal Constitution of 1824, and the Federal System, which the army of Texas are now defending.

2d. To declare Texas a State of the Mexican Federation, in consequence of the dissolution of the constitutional Government of Coahuila & Texas by Military intervention.

3d. Declare that a provisional Local government be organized for the State of Texas, under the Constitutional Law of January 1824 and appoint a provisional Governor & Lieut. Governor.

4th. Declare the existing laws and constitution of the State of Coahuila & Texas, to be provisionally in force, with such exceptions as may be deemed proper, until a constitution is formed.

5th. Pledge the faith of the State to raise funds and means, and men, to sustain the War in defence of the constitution & Federal System

6th. Secure the lands and interests of the State, and declare all fraudulent and illegal sales or grants of lands made by the State Government of Coahuila and Texas, since April 1833 to be null and void

7. Establish a provisional system of Finances.

8. Organize the Militia, and appoint a Commander in Chief.

9. Raise 300 infantry & 150 Cavalry and a corps of artillery as regular troops.

Camp Salado 8th, Oct. 1835

This letter should have been burnt to Last - I was fifty five during the war - my mouth is very hard - my stile good - The members return to hold the consultation, If there has been too much precipitation heretofore, it ought to be a lesson to avoid S. F. A. that Error in future. The enclosed is a memorandum of the Full To Extent, which I think the consultation ought to go any thing beyond the Consultation's like forming a new Constitution &c. would do harm, and possibly pro- &c

great confusion. The Constitution ought to be as little as can be got along with at present, this is my opinion.

I wish you to show the enclosed memorandum to Lamar, & this note.

Yrs &c
S. F. Austin

To the Council San Felipe.

Agreeable to a notice issued, a meeting of the citizens of the District of Brazos was convened, at the Town of St. Augustine in the town of Chanahuntang, on Saturday the 19th day of August A.D. 1835. When Wm. Wyatt Hanks was called to the chair, & Lyr S.M. Everett appointed Secretary.

Citizens of the Jurisdiction of Brazos To Pass on Consultn.

The Chairman having explained the object of the meeting, a communication was read from the Jurisdiction of Columbia when it was resolved that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the propriety of acceding to said communication,

When the following Gentlemen were unanimously appointed members of said committee.

Captain James Chesher, Col Wm Ezqr, John Neal Esqr, Lyr S.M. Everett, William Conklin, Maj Lyr B. M. Williams, Horatio Hanks, Col. S.F. Lewis, John Jones, Benjamin F. Hawkins, William Jones Esqr, E. Thompson, P.J. Pendleton, A. Cruzo, B. W. Grimes.

The committee having retired a short time, returned and communicated the following, as the result of their deliberations.

Resolved 1st. That we deem it expedient, that we elect seven persons to represent our district in the General convention, to be held at Washington on the 1st of October next—

Resolved, that a select committee of five be appointed, to order and hold an election, for seven Representatives for said convention of all Texas,

Resolved, that said committee shall issue certificates of election to those Elected, the Election to be at the Store of S.M. Everett on Saturday the 26th inst, and that the following persons compose said committee of election, Wyatt Hanks, Wm Jones, S.M. Everett, John Neil Esqr, Wm. Conklin,

Resolved, that a committee of fifteen be appointed to act as Committee of Safety and correspondence, that said committee shall convene on the day of election at the Store of S.M. Everett, and that they have power to make by-laws to govern themselves,

Resolved, that they shall keep the people informed of the situation of the country, so far as they may be able to,

Resolved, that said Committee shall hold their sessions at the Store of S.M. Everett, once every month, or oftener if the circumstances seem necessary,

Resolved, that the committee have power to fill vacancies that may occur,

Resolved, That the following persons compose said committee,
Wyatt Hanks, John Miller, Joseph Mott, Wm Jones Esq, Thos. Watt, Jimmy Low,
P.F. Jones, Thos Holmes, Britain Hall, Thos. H. Haley, James Chadwick,
Horatio Hanks, William Pamplin, Samuel C. Lewis, Jas S.H. Bennett,

Resolved that the Chairman & Secretary sign the proceedings of this meeting

On motion, this meeting adjourned sine die.

Wm. Hanks Chairman,
S.H. Everitt Secretary,

Agreeable to a resolution of the General Committee on the 19th inst, the Committee of vigilance and safety, met at the Store of S.H. Everitt on Saturday the 26th September 1835.

When it was moved that Wyatt Hanks, take the Chair & that S.H. Everitt was appointed Secretary, By request, W.B. Law took the Chair, when Mr. W. Hanks moved, and was seconded, that the members of this committee, pay their equal proportion of the Expenses incurred by those who are invited to represent this district in the General convention of all Texas, and that the money so contributed shall be deposited in the hands of the Secretary of this committee within five days to be equally divided among those Representatives who go to represent us.

Resolved, That ten persons be voted for and those seven persons having the highest number of votes shall receive certificates of Election, but should any of those elected, refuse or neglect to apply for their certificates, then the next highest on the list, to receive certificates in their place.

Resolved, That we proceed forthwith to the Election.

The polls having been opened, the votes given in, and counted out, the following proved to be the result of the Election.

For Wm Pamplin	47 votes,	Wyatt Hanks	42 votes,	Jos. Hall	8 votes.
" Dr. S.H. Everitt	47 "	John H. Pettit	29 "	Jas. Bann	3 "
" Thos Holmes,	47 "	B.F. Hawkins	13 "	E. Pruett	2 "
" James H. Bennett	44 "	Wm Jamplin	12 "	J. Woodward	1 "
" S. Lewis	46 "	Jas. Chadwick	11 "		

Whereupon, Wm Pamplin, S.H. Everitt, Thos Holmes, S. Lewis, Jas. H. Bennett, Wyatt Hanks & B.F. Hawkins were declared duly Elected,

Resolved, That this Committee adjourn to meet again on the first Saturday of November next.

W. Hanks Chairman,
S.H. Everitt Secretary.

On the 28th Sept. a number of documents were received from the Chairman of the Committee of Safety for the Department of Nacogdoches that were deemed important to communicate to the Community General. The Chairman called a meeting to be held at S.H. Everitt on Saturday 3rd October, the meeting having organized it was moved and seconded, that the documents, now before this Committee be read, adopted & thereupon they were read,

It was moved by Mr. St. Mark's & seconded, that we go into Committee of the whole, to draft resolutions to be forwarded to the different Jurisdictions of Texas. Then, the preceding Resolutions were laid before the Committee, by Dr. J. H. Cantle. and after being read, were taken up separately and unanimously adopted. They were then read to a highly respectable concourse of the citizens, and by them received to.

Whereas, a crisis has arrived in the affairs of our Government, calculated to rouse the energies and faculties of every member of this Republic, who values his rights, his liberty & his privileges, guaranteed to us by the Constitution and laws of the country; and as we have solemnly obligated ourselves to support the constitution and Laws of the Country of our adoption so long as it is in our power, de facto: And whereas rumor in the daily recitation of news from the interior, calculated to excite the animosity of a portion of our citizens in a unusual state of alarm and excitation, (and under something is done) to give permanency and stability, to our present very unsettled Government, to keep them in this state of Excitement, and inasmuch as our fellow citizens of the different Jurisdictions have treated it prudent, (in Quiet, public feeling and [illegible] on the occasion) to have a General Convention for Texas, for the purpose of consulting the Citizens and information of the existing Government, with the view to be adopted to effect the intended object, and as it is with confidence that unanimity of sentiment, inclination and resolution prevails,

It is Resolved, 1st, That we will cordially and unequivocally give our united & decided support to the decisions of the Majority of said Convention, and that we will use our best efforts with our fellow citizens of Texas, to establish permanency to our present form of Government (or should they deem it necessary to amend or alter our present form of Government) to establish such Government on a firm and solid Basis

Resolved 2d, That in concert with our fellow citizens of the Jurisdiction of Nacogdoches, in recommending a Local Government but we give it as our opinion, that the Constitution of 1824 should be adhered to, so far as may be consistent,

Resolved 3d, That we would sincerely recommend to our fellow citizens of the Jurisdictions of Nacogdoches & Shelby, that they respect the rights and usages of the Indians in their respective territories, so long as there is no reason to believe they have hostile intentions,

Resolved 4th, That we respectfully request the Jurisdictions of Nacogdoches and Teneseline, that a Committee be appointed to correspond with the neighbouring tribes of Indians from time to time, that the community generally, may be informed of their feelings in regard to Texas,

Resolved 5th, That we have been induced to emigrate to this country, under the promise of "protection" to "the rights and

privileges guaranteed to us, by the Constitution under which we are living, that we have as free & unfettered and perfect citizens indeed to not oppose the to our obligations, we view the late attempt of a military Commander (or any other Usurper himself or else) to abolish the political Chief, to suspend our Laws & Constitutions, as a direct attack upon the liberty, rights & privileges of every citizen in Texas and that it is illegal, unjust and arbitrary, and Tyrannical in the extreme,

Resolved 6th. That we have no feeling of hostility to the State or Supreme Government, but what the Laws already entitled us to, such as individual citizens duly submit to all just laws, made in conformity with the Constitution, We are determined to resist, with all the means in our power or at our Command, the attempt of any man, or set of men, who may feel disposed to dispossess us of our rights and Privileges, or to Govern over us with the hand of Tyranny,

Resolved 7th. That a copy of the above proceedings be communicated to our fellow citizens of the different Jurisdictions of Texas, with the desire that they will communicate to us, such information as they may receive from time to time, that they may be deemed important,

Resolved 8th. That the Chairman of the General Committee of Correspondence,

Resolved 9th That a copy of the above resolutions be forwarded to the General Consultation,

Wyatt Hanks Chairman
S. H. Everitt Secretary

Head Quarters 12 miles above Velasco,
Nov 4. 1835.

To the President of the Consultation

S. Austin Esqr.

Sir, I have been much surprised to hear by Mr. Moseley Baker & others of Consultation that the opinion is prevalent among the people in that part of the country that no more reinforcements are necessary and that Texas will be taken before reinforcements can reach here in this respect. I am decidedly of opinion that without more strong reinforcements it cannot be taken, nor with them, without battering cannon and from one to two hundred round shot for battering down walls.

The enemy have thirteen cannon mounted, of various calibers from 6 to 18 pounds, from 6 to 8 more shall will be mounted in a few days, their force consists of regular troops and about 300 men,

Within the last few days, more than 100 men have left this army & more are preparing to return home, and the reinforcements, so that our effective force is only about 450 men, after deducting the sick, this force it is known to all, is but undisciplined Militia, and in some respects, of very discordant materials, The officers from the

commander in chief down, no one experienced in military service, with such a force Texas cannot be effectually invested, all that could, has been done, the enemy have been beaten, and driven within the walls, with loss on every occasion, where they have made sorties, at the conception they were defeated by Captain Bowie & Capt.n Fannin, with the loss of one Cannon & seventy men, Killed, wounded and missing, The army has so far done wonders, it has confined the force, within strongly fortified walls, it has beaten the enemy in every encounter, and not a day passed without diminishing within the reach of the enemies grape shot, it has struggled against all manner of privations & sufferings, against want of discipline, dissention, desertion, and what is more than all, against what has been considered coldness and tardiness in sending out reinforcements.

I repeat Texas cannot be taken without 1000 men at the least, and the Battering Cannon of which I have spoken,

From 300. to 400. say, 350 can I think be kept incase reinforcements, arrive, those who have left have all promised to return, & is to be hoped. they will have sufficient patriotism to do so

I have authorized, and do authorize the commission to mortgage all my estate if necessary, for the public service,

I have dispatched the adjutant General Warren Esq.r Aid, and my Aid-de-camp Col.r P.M. Grayson, for the purpose of bringing out reinforcements, stopping the false and silly rumors, that they are unnecessary, and hurrying on the large cannon with round shot and men to work them.

I have further to inform you, that there is no medicine in Camp and so far as I am informed, none on the way, there are no surgical instruments nor bandages, nor materials for making dit nor any thing else to provide for the sick & wounded, I hope they will be sent immediately, as also that additional physicians will come out with the reinforcements,

I have the satisfaction to enclose you a detailed report of Captain of the engagement of the 28, th, this action so brilliant in its results proves our great superiority to the enemy, when they came out from behind their walls, I last night received the despatches informing me of the gallant band of patriots, who have volunteered and are volunteering from Orleans, I have ordered the cannon, lately sent to Goliad to march here, this news is cheering and has revived the Spirits of the army very much,

I have to request that no rifles may be sent along with the supplies to the Camp, Ink, paper, and wafers are much wanting,

By order
W.D.C. Hall
a.g.t. & Sec.ry Gen.l

I. F. Austin
Comd.r in Chief,

Extract from a letter received from Col. Thos. F. McKinney, dated Newport Oct. 2d, 1835.

"I have friends with me to the amount of 5 or 6 hundred men, & shall be joined by 5 hundred Rifles, & will march through the Creek Country, Col. McKinney & a hundred Indians in Georgia, from 3 to 400 men, & will be in the struggle, & journey through Georgia could be done & will be with confidential news, & to know my foundations, & will stay in the United States as long as I can be of service to Texas, & you are at liberty to insert to the execution my offer, will act in any way with my force, & any thing & every thing I may be esteemed useful

I will visit Genl. Jackson in a few days. That is, so soon as our business is arranged here, shall have to hire the strongest kind of cattle to be used if necessary, such is interest and that of the Indians, is nine per cent, I shall be in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi, and if I can render will act accordingly".

Col. S. F. Austin, and the General Council of all Texas,

Dear Sirs

In the Texas has started for Matagorda, and the Steam Boat goes tomorrow, finely armed & equipped, I received your letter by express, every article here is left for the army has been dispatched & ordered on the way, and as long as I shall have a dear Coast.

I am respectfully
Thos. F. McKinney
for James Miller.

(McKinney is gone in the San Felipe)

Head Quarters Nov. 8 1835

(2) The destination of the army is unknown to me, it is reported & believed at Velasco that many Indians with Texas, & also that many Mexicans in the Colonies will join the invading army, & also of robust health, armed & more good and a commander, man & equipped - it is an effective force of men brave & well disciplined, & well armed & equipped, & will be commanded by men of the first character & talents in the country in the Italian army it is considered a very best force, & being and no mercenary contribution in real existence is a military term employed, neither have I ever pretended to be a military man, I hope will now be clearly understood, & the men shall be kept as much as possible, & as long as

Yours respectfully
S. F. Austin,

All now depends on the speedy arrival of strong reinforcements

S. F. Austin,

Head Quarters near Bexar
Jan 8. 1835

S. Austin
&c
Vice Consultation

In addition to my communication in Col. Bowie's & my own individual name & on the part of the Citizens of Texas, I must request that it is necessary to have a sound Steamboat or small Brig of War stationed at Velasco or Galveston Bay, to prevent the landing of troops or munitions of war, which may be sent from New Orleans to Matamoras, for the use of the Mexican army. The army will need blankets, shoes, some cloth for uniforms & jackets Locks &c.

I must sincerely and fervently urge upon the consideration of the Consultation the absolute necessity of organizing a regular army, and investing a sufficient sum of money and limited powers to accomplish it. I would suggest Gen. Burnett, Gen. Rusk, Col. Bowie or Travis, provided he is a man of high standing, integrity, intelligence, & known Military talents

I must also urge out unfortunate, the army is impatiently waiting to hear from the convention.

Wm. B. Travis
Lieut Col
Comdt of the Post

His respectfully &c.

To the President of the Consultation of Texas.

P.S. I also suggest the propriety of sending for a few Mortars and Cannon and some engineer corps— in short we must have a regular army and regular officers, and that without any delay, great harm has & is resulting from the inactivity of the Consultation is necessary at this time, & I am ready to hypothecate all my estate to raise funds, but we must have system & a regular army and a Code of high Military Standing.

S. Austin

(getting out of ink & pen) (My health is bad)
S.F.A.

Head Quarters, Mission of Concepcion
1½ miles from Bexar, Jan 28. 1835.

To the President of the Consultation of Texas.

Same
&c

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that the enemy, to the number of about 300 cavalry
Vice Consultation
and 100 infantry, as nearly as can be ascertained, with six pieces of cannon, at sunrise this morning, attacked a detachment of the Army under the command of Col. Bowie and Capt. Harris, consisting of ninety men, who were posted at this place, and after engagement of three hours were repulsed with the loss of one killed & seven wounded, one mortally— six wounded, about 30 minutes, Harris left dead in the field, and from the best accounts nearly as many more that were carried off, the number of unwounded we can only conjecture, with the exception of two that

communicated on the field, I is with great regret, I have to say, that in Lieut. me had one more, Richard Chapman, of Florida, severely wounded, & two Mortally. But one have retained. no other loss by reason of a few hours—

The main body of the army came up, & in about 30 minutes after the enemy had retired, a review, & count took place of this which has resulted so gloriously to the United Army, and more particularly to the individuals immediately engaged, with the given as have as it can be made out,

The overwhelming superiority of force, and the brilliancy of the victory gained over them, speak for themselves, & is unnecessary to say from me any further eulogy.

I must urge the great necessity there is, for sending over Specie as possible reinforcements, in order to bring the campaign to a close without delay, which is otherwise may be protracted for the season, that Tampa is strongly fortified, well supplied with Provisions & defended by a force much superior to ours,

I have just learned that the cavalry of the army was commanded by Col. Hyatt Thompson and the infantry by Col. Mariano Vol. the Brothers of the late Gen. E. Martin Perfecto,

S. F. Mud two

P.S. If it is possible to procure a good supply of 15 & 16 lbs Ammunition for the Largest Cannon you have—it is of the greatest importance that they be forwarded to us, without delay.

S. F.

P.S. Paid omitted to mention the great need we are in of a considerable supply of funds, if it is possible to provide us with 2 or 3000 $, as much of it in Silver as can well be procured, it would be a great help to us—

J. Hunter.

Tacogdoches Nov. 1. 1835.

Gen Thomas

Your several communications of instant, were
4th Inst. yesterday received, on which meeting was immediately called
to and $2,800 dollars and 28 Rangers were instantly subscribed, there
Gen. Council are now for the purpose called will hereby accordingly
Rangers, a company of Volunteers from the United States, of 50 & 60
men, all well mounted and armed, & the Rifles will be sent to
make enquiries to raise volunteers from the rest of this,
a meeting of the Regulars will take place this morning, and we
are in hopes of getting 200 more volunteers from there,
I was furnished with 350 lbs. of Rifle Lead, 20 lbs of powder
powder, Rifle of Bankhead, will be obtained from Nacogdoches immediately
on

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

If Matamoras is attacked and revolutionized by Mexico, Bexar would fall as a matter of course, for all supplies of funds or troops would be cut off. There is no way in which funds or men could be employed to do much advantage to Texas, as in an expedition against Matamoras, this enterprise merits the first attention of this convention, an express at any rate should be sent to the committee of N. Orleans, inviting this expedition, also to N. York, Tavala ought to write to N. York on the subject, even a rumor of such a thing would keep troops from being sent to Texas.

The military operations will be pressed now very rapidly, as much so as practicable, the Convention however must not be surprised should Bexar hold out for a long time, it has been unanimously decided in a council of war, without one exception, that it ought not to be stormed, they have plenty of provisions inside, the Comanche country round Bexar might be laid waste, its true, and all the stock driven to Guadalupe, but this will ruin the inhabitants, who are our friends. The grass will all be burnt from Rio Grande to Bexar, I shall send parties for this purpose, but the other measure of laying waste the country round Bexar, I think too hard on the inhabitants

S. F. Austin

Head Quarters of the Army of Texas,
2 miles above Bexar, 6th Nov. 1835.

J. N. Fannin
Comm[illegible]

To the Pres. of the convention
of Texas, San Felipe.

My dear Sir

I herewith inclose for the use of your body a letter from my friend Col. F. Wilson of the United States Military, and now in command at Ft. Morgan Mobile point &c.

It is only necessary for me to say, that I address him on the subject of our unfortunate difficulties, in August last, giving him all the information in my then reach, in regards to all points necessary to form a correct knowledge of our aims and enemies situation and resources, the conclusion I invited of him, permission to use his name in our proposed Military organization by the convention, knowing him to be one of the most intrepid and accomplished officers of the United States Army, and believing that his services would be acceptable to our fellow citizens of Texas in the field, as well as be the most influence it would produce, in the United States of this North

You will see that he does not decline the recommendation, and

I am satisfied of Lieutenant Irvine's zeal, & wish he could accept, at least, some small mark of his services, & I should recommend him for the vacancy of Captain.

You will see that he tenders his services to Congress, should Military events & views so require, & I have only to add, that I shall be happy to forward his interest in any honourable manner.

I wish now to suggest to you the propriety of sending to Mr. Holland & Buckle for a battering cannon, say 12 - 18 - 24 or 32 pounders, two pieces each. Should it be had, under 2 to 300 rounds of shot for each, and 4 gallons of powder for each piece should be allowed. Calibre not to be more than 12 Inches.

If you cannot get many recruits for them, I hereby request you to raise a committee, & call, by beat of drum, a meeting of the Inhabitants, in any public Room, or on the Quay near the Bridge, to meet the Mayor, & Town Major, & tell them, that I am sorry to find, that the Inhabitants of this City, who have so long enjoyed the Blessings of Liberty, & Property, under the Protection of the Laws, & Constitution of Texas, should be so backward in coming forward, in defence of the same, & not say that as their Forefathers in the last, did fight & bleed for Liberty, & Independence, & transmitted it to them, that they will not be wanting in defending it, for their Posterity, & that they will not suffer the Standard of the Great Washington, to be trampled on, by Slaves, but that they will rally round it, & shew to the World, that they are worthy descendants of such Ancestors.

If we do not succeed, at least let us not neglect any means which may in the least contribute to a fortunate conclusion. I had rather fall against the last struggling Band for Liberty, & Independence, than basely desert the Cause of Liberty, & my Country, by tamely submitting to the Yoke of Tyranny, & Oppression, which I am determined never to do, if I can help it, as long as I have life, or power to resist.

This Country must indeed, look to us, for protection, if we do not succeed, & why should we? With Guns suited to the Service we may be called on to perform, we are many, & many Command success, without them it is at least questionable. With 2, 12 or 18 pr Battering pieces, Bexar would have been ours, on the 26th Inst. & the Battering Cannon expected, the same may be said of Velasco.

With these, & what will be got from Bexar, we are fortify every Seaport Town in Texas, & that well too, & every thing the Service may require. The mortars & Bombs will be useful also to keep Shipping off at a distance, & blow them up.

Do Gods sake put matters on such a footing, that Quickly, those pieces, Ammn, Lead &c, & Grape & Canister Shot, but never again send forward Battering Cannon, without Round Shot, We have no hopes of soon seeing the heavy pieces, & even if not before you shall hear of the fall of Bexar, We have about 600 men in Camp, but whether all will remain until they do arrive, I am unable to say, but if any of the enemy receive no reinforcements, we have men enough to take them, with the Battering Cannon & round Shot,

In haste, I am my dear Sir, Most truly Yours

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Fort Morgan Ala. Sept. 23. 1835.

F. J. Belton
To
W. Travis

My dear friend,

I hasten to give you an early acknowledgement of yours dated 27 August 1835.

It discusses matters of great moment, in many points of view, but principally as respects the probabilities of success, and the means for effecting it in the struggle which now seems imminent, I am much indebted and gratified for the generous opinions you have formed of my qualifications for the emergency, and to give efficient aid to your noble enterprise.

To be a successful chief requires at least many advantages which I have not, and would necessarily be slow in acquiring; some of them are truly obstacles; but zeal and affection for the cause might make head against them, but there are many men among you, whose local information would tell better than mere technical knowledge

You do not say that you have as yet a combined organization, in effecting this, good discipline is necessary, to make head against St. Annas forces, very good cavalry and fair artillery are necessary, particularly light batteries; these two arms requires steady chiefs, and the latter, all quarters a little science and instruction. The same may, indeed be said of most of the line, infantry and Riflemen too, if they can be brought to steady duty, but it may prove a misfortune, too late to remedy, to rely, in a country of mountains and rivers on a force whose best movements depend on the most finished drill we have, and the great secret of victory is the difficulty of 8c, assembling them, and bringing them into close action— I mean practically— it has been thus in all times- the principles of War, as you know, are unchangeable, as those of any science called fixed,— If your calculations act really and with discrimination, there must be found among men, who have everything in jeopardy, and a right above all right most sacred when acquired the right of self or representative Government, among these, you must find those on whom to build hope and command success, two important elements, passion and principle, are thus combined,

I have just consulted an indifferent map— San Antonio seems to be a short way from you, but the country you describe as difficult, the Dictator has at his disposal all the resources of the Government, and will at first press your hand & seas, his early and energetic use of rapid means, may check him in his communications, which being forced to be over land must prove difficult, He has learned well the art of his time, but the despotisms of these dictators is rarely permanent, To join you, however, for which I express a great inclination is to me a step of great importance, a push for some time and perhaps to leave the States is flagged with some

and difficulties, and a unavoidable delay would occur; to discon-
-ect nothing, domestic reasons & duties, being absolutely en-
-gaged with attention of our only Son for West Point or profes-
-sion, a resignation to frame and devise our ruling views
would be necessary, and indeed would follow as a matter
of course, and many military responsabilities not easily shake
off, or settled up are pending.

Is your Convention among many other obvious duties to
Organize a Constitutional and administrative government,
United to your unfortunate State? a successful resistence
brings with it an immediate necessity for authority, laws &
order, without which mere military success does not radiate
beyond the field of Battle, Skillful and faithfull financial
Chiefs, are only next to military men in such contests, and there
is no lack, in the adversary of those high qualities, having political
virtue and honor, have your previous resorts an Convention,
attained maturity and Strength? are laws based upon
Conventional proceedings? in whole or same respect and oblig-
-ing unite me and more fully on all the points so slightly
adverted to between us, I invite hastily to meet a Change of pos-
-sibility via New Orleans and address to Messrs Toby & Brothers,

With great respect & Esteem
Truly Yours
Stephen F. Austin

P.S. I can be at New Orleans Six or 8 days
every month, while I am Stationed and if I can be of use in
selecting or inspecting arms &c or military Stores, I will attend
to it with pleasure, So my actual expenses only being paid,
I fear that like Carolina, much trash might be put on you,
in haste,
S. F. A.

Col. J. H. Stanton Jr.
Velasco Texas.

Liberty 9th Nov. 1835

To the Hon. Branch T. Archer
President of Convention

Committee of Safety of Liberty

To the Convention

The Committee of Safety
for this municipality have great pleasure in addressing you, and
the honorable body you represent, that they have good and
satisfactory reasons to believe, that there is not at this time a
single citizen in this municipality, who is not disposed
to Common security, and cordially in the good cause in
which we are engaged,
The Committee would respectfully express their

hope that all personal jealousies, that have heretofore existed among us, will be altogether reprudiated, and that a universal feeling of harmony and of confidence will pervade the Country.

The Committee would further trespass on your indulgence, by suggesting for themselves & in behalf of their fellow citizens of the municipality, that a precipitate election = at a time of independence, would be inexpedient and injurious That a temporal provisional organization of the County, and a careful attention to the development of events, would be the wisest policy. - What is unavoidable in politicks, is always Justifiable, but a precipitous secession from Mexico, might in ever the reprehension, and recall from us the sympathies of many friends in the North,

With great deference
We have the honor to be
Your most obts. Servants
and Compatriots
Edwd. Tarrant
David G. Burnet
Henry Wise Farley
Williams Harris
Baker &c, Smith
Jesse Grimes,

Gen. I would beg leave to make a motion to the chairman Resolution of this Committee,
Count or Laugh.
That the San Augustine volunteer Patrole Company and as many of its citizens as will please with their Company be in readiness at reveille time the captain of said Company calls and there to march and half a mile from town, there to hail with joy and gratitude the volunteer patriotic sons of our mother country, who have quit their homes in the United States, and are now upon their march to the battlefield there, if required to stain their Blood in defence of our rights against a malicious Norwegian and his blood thirsty Germans whose object it is to make us humble to the arbitrious mandate of a military power, or quit the Country.

The above is a copy of a resolution presented by William Carl Esq. a member of the Committee of Vigilance and Safety of San Augustine, which unanimously passed,

J. Nichols
Sec. Committee,

Nov 4, 1835.

Fort Bluff Oct. 24 1835

Maj. Heuptbrilland

Dear Sir

It is thought by the committee
Capt of Supt of Safety here, that a small number of cattle remaining
of Fort Bluff to some thousand, now at present under our care belonging
to citizens of the United States, and as the present contest we
Maj. Heuptbrilland are engaged in, necessarily cannot be attended with great
expence, while those who own property here cannot participate
with us in its benefits, it is our wish that reasonable,
such owners of property, should join same army as the help us in
a counsellioning our object, If they cannot come themselves, we
send some to help us, meanwhile greatly are in want of a
Guard to watch over & keep up this property to help us and to
Capt. Rogers, and Harrison would come time since to
Maj. Heuptbrilland of Columbia who has cattle here, for an-
sistance, but as yet he has received no answer from the letter,
and has understood that he intends not to help us, if such
is a general feeling among those who own property here, we
cannot expect much from their voluntary aid,

We are rejoiced to get such cheering news of the progress
of our little band, but sorry we are, that there are among
us those that would throw all possible doubt and our
information, thus hurting from the people that confidence
which they ought to possess in our information, for which
an information demanded for measures, how is it possible
we can, raise them, when no faith is put in the information
how they may receive?

You will be kind enough if you please, to forward us
as speedily as possible any doings of the Convention interesting
to us,

We remain Dear Sir,
Your &c. Rogers Chairman,
Joseph R. Pulliam Secy.

Committee Room San Augustine Nov. 3. 1835

The committee of vigilance and safety of San Augus-
tine, take great pleasure in informing the permanent council
at San Felipe, that 60 volunteers from the United States, will
reach this place tomorrow on their way to the head quarters
of the army of Texas, and also that arrangements are made
to mount all the recruits Rangers, and also this Committee
will inform you that a corps of mounted volunteers of upwards of
40 men will march from this place on saturday next the 6th
instant, we will inform you also that the patriotism of the

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of the old Parish District of Tenaha, near Adais' settlement is a matter of difficulties, means only to say that the people to the east, on Sabine are wanting in subscribing what least they have a bad way of showing their loyalty which added to the amounts before subscribed together with other contingencies, make the same total proposed to be raised by citizens have pledged themselves to this committee that they will do their utmost to raise. Sincerely if necessary all of which can be relied upon it is expected that the people will proceed at the same time from Nacogdoches in executing the several subscriptions to be raised all of which we give you due power in pursuance and request you communicate the same forthwith delay to the Commissioners in behalf of the Colony of Texas

Yours respectfully
(S.) Mercheles, Chr.
of Comt. of Nacogdoches, &c.
F.T. Thomas Secy.

Sir Herewith we enclose you a copy of a letter from Capt. W. Tell Esqr. of Natchitoches, that you may see the interest that is taken in that place, in behalf of the Citizens of Texas.

(S.) Chr.
F.T. Thomas Secy.

To the President
and Council of Texas.
of Nacogdoches

Nacogdoches committee of Correspondence
and Safety Nov. 4th 1835.

This committee beg leave to report

To to the Council of Texas that they have been waited upon by Consultation the Commissioners from that body who have laid before this Committee the objects of their mission as stated in the report of the resolutions now in their possession, they have great pleasure in stating their active and cordial approval of their resolutions and their determination to co-operate with the Commissioners in the furtherance of their views for the general good, They beg further to state that with the concurrence of this Committee the Commissioners of your Council have appointed Mr. John K. Allen Member of Committee who will present a monthly Statement of the finances we have for the information and guidance of your body, but at the same time deem it necessary to advise you, that owing to the repeated calls made in this place for means to aid and volunteers for the Texian, it will be indispensably necessary to disburse some portion of said public funds in this place, as they find it next impracticable to raise any further means by private subscription, the locality of this Committee and citizens generally having been already taxed to an extent which would render further solicitation unreasonable, They beg further to state that the Revd Mr. John K. Allen has voluntarily offered to perform

the duties of his office for future charge until the difficulties and dangers with which we are now threatened be removed.

I. A. Newland
Ls. Ley.

Jorge Aulé. Juan Seguin
Chairman.

To the President Council
Washington

Com. of Vera Cruz

Vera Cruz 5th Nov. 1835.

The Committee of Vigilance and Safety of San Augustine, to write great pleasure report to the Government Convention this Committee having full confidence in the moral worth and integrity of those Gentlemen, do most heartily concur with the resolution of the Government Committee, in conferring the high trust upon those Gentlemen at the same time, this Committee will report to the Government Committee that the spirit of defending the Country is battling deep root in this part of Texas, and also that the first Company of Volunteers from New Orleans, by way of Natchitoches arrived in this place last evening, they will march from this place immediately on the arrival of their arms, which will arrive here about twelve O'clock tomorrow; they will also inform you that the men are all in high spirits, and anxious to reach the head quarters of the Army of Texas; also we will inform you Verbally that the report says, that many volunteers may be daily for here, in this place, from the United States, on their way to the Army of Texas.

Com. of U.S. of San Augustine To Council.

We respectfully
Your Obt Servts
Chn. of Comt. U. S.

J. W. Thomas Secy.

Head Quarters one mile above Bejar
Nov. 3d 1835.

Lt. Juan Antonio Padilla, leaves the army to occupy his station as a member of the convention from Guadaloupe Victoria

To The most favorable recommendation of this man, is a sufficient recommendation, and is superfluous to any thing I can say in his favour, He joined the gallant band at the Colorado, he is a true friend to Texas and to Liberty. I heartily recommend him to my friends.

S. F. Austin

J. F. Austin
Council.

Fortress of Goliad Nov 15th, 1835

To Capt Wyllie Martin

P. Smith
To
Capt. Martin,

My Dear Sir

The present, is the first opportunity of writing you which has offered, since the occupation of this post, without sending my communications by express, or neglecting urgent and indispensible duty.

For local information concerning military occurrences in this quarter, I take much pleasure in refering you to Col James Power, member elect of the convention of Texas, from the municipality of Refugio.

The Volunteer Greys from the city of New-Orleans, came here to day for head Quarters. They appear to be animated with the enthusiasm of patriot soldiers, devoting themselves to the cause of Liberty and of Texas; and they wish for an opportunity only to demonstrate to the world, the Strength and unity of the feeling they feel, in espousing a Struggle for ~~independence~~ the freedom of this country now; a Struggle imposed by acts of Tyranny & the ambition of their Author; If any thing of importance should occur on this point of the Frontier, you shall be informed by the first opportunity, I know not whether I am to remain here, or not, I dispatched an express to head Quarters yesterday, and expect orders by its return,

I entertain serious apprehensions, that all Mexico will unite in the War against Texas. If I have not greatly mis judged, Texas is to Stand alone; and if the result does not verify this opinion I have no correct information concerning the political Condition of their interior.

You will see at San Filipe in a few days, Citizen Ynguestio Visca, on his arrival at this post great exertions were made by some individuals to procure his reception as Governor but as I did not feel authorized to recognize him in that capacity on my own responsibility, I ordered him recd. by the escort detailed to receive him, as a private Citizen.

I have objected to this course, immediately organized and made by means of this tools a cold attempt to raise an open meeting; but the brave Volunteers under my Command, met the proposition in a manner that does honor to themselves and the Service in which they have already, again and again, distinguished their good and gallant behaviour,

On this subject and on others connected with the service here, you will be apt to hear much, hear all— and I know you will take every step necessary to do equal & equal justice to all

A Council here have sent delegates to your body four of whom are now residents of this Municipality

And are a man needed of the State.

Inclose to your Care the copy of the proceedings of the Electoral Caucus, as furnished me by the Alcalde of this Municipality.

You will please make such a disposition of this Corps as shall be best Calculated Commence good of our Common Country.

Yours Respectfully
P. Dimmitt

New Orleans Oct 17 1835

To the President of the
Consultation of all Texas

Sir

Being recently from the
A.C.Allen Coast of Texas, and Knowing the designs of the Mexicans Govern
To -ment through Capt. Thomas H Thompson and others in the
Consultation Service of Mexico, I deem it highly important that there should be one well manned vessell, to cruise off the Coast of Texas, for its protection, also to prevent the landing of Troops, and for that end, I have made arrangements in this City, in case it meets the approbation of the Convention, I have a vessel in view which will suit me Sail very fine in the Mexican Navy, and will mount 9 guns and 50 Stand of small arms- all of which I will fit out, at my own and my Brother J.K. Allens joint Expence, with 4 months provisions,

I can obtain an experienced Commander, familliar with the Mexican naval Service, also 50 able bodied men to go on board as volunteers- I will also accompany the vessel myself on her first Cruise.

I wish this to be laid before the Convention for its approval, and a message forwarded to me at Nacogdoches to meet me on the 12, or 15, November, with instructions from the Convention, Should it meet the approbation of that august body-

I am Respectfully
Your obt Servant
A.C. Allen

P.S. You will please also send a duplicate of the Message via Brazos, directed to Thomas Bartlett & William Bryan Esqrs, New Orleans, members of the Committee in behalf of Texas
A.C.A

N.B. The Vessel will by the request of A.C. Allen give him such instructions as it will think proper, so as to enable him to make the necessary Investigations, also inform him under what flag the vessel will sail
Lieut de Peter U.S.N.

45

Mr. E. Hall

Camt at N.O.

To E. Hall.

The Committee appointed to forward the views of and to aid the Texian Emigrants, respectfully request that you will take charge of, and accompany those who are to sail this afternoon on board the Schoon Columbus for Bonzoria, as well as the Equipage furnished them, and that on your arrival you will present them to the Provisional Government of Texas, or to any authorized agent thereof, in such manner as you may think best— Our best wishes attend You!

M. Christy } acts.
Jas Ramages }
Comtt.

Head Quarters one mile above

Bexar Nov. 1. 1835.

To the President of the Consultation

S.F. Austin of Texas

To Convention

I have to inform you that since my last from Camp Concepticon of the 28 ult. I have removed the Head Quarters of this Post- Col Bowie & Capt. Fannin's Company the Position below town a short distance above Concepticon Bexar is now invested and will be pressed as closely as our force will permit- It is my duty however to say, that the force here is not sufficient, and without a considerable reinforcement, the prospect of success is quite doubtful. This opinion is given on consultation with all the officers, I have made a demand on General Cos, to surrender, he refused to receive any official communication, but sent a confidential person a Padre to say to me verbally that he was ordered by his Govt. to fortify Bexar and hold it at all hazards, we learn also theretically that the fortifications are already very strong and are being more so daily by the activity of Genl Cos, who says he will stand and defend this place if with only ten men.

We have plenty of Corn above and below town. Nothing else important has occured, the men appear satisfied and disposed to persevere, but we must have reinforcements without delay. try and enlist the Cherokees, &c.

I send you a paper which came from a city far in the Interior- A part of it will not do to publish and a part would have a good effect, you will consider such parts of this confidential as your Judgements may dictate, I think it would be important to place Gov. Zavala as President of the Convention and to send for Gen. Mexia, I merely make the suggestion, the decree of Congress, changing the Government to a central form, has been received in Bexar in substance similar to the project enclosed.

S.F. Austin

M.R. 2d. 21. not Ch. 1.

Head Quates Nov 4 1835.

Same, to Same. tomorrow new positions will be taken Still Nearer Bejar. both above and below town, with a view to inclose the enemy as closely as possible within his fortifications. Nothing material has occured since the departure of Col. W.L.L. Wall

Mr Richardson the bearer of this is a Gentleman of very high moral standing in the U.S. and would be a very active faithful and efficient agent for the Convention, and I recommend for that station and will honor for him=

I know of no movement that would serve Texas so efficiently. as an expedition against Matamoras or Tampico by Gen. Mexico.

My health is still very bad and feeble for which reason I do not write more extensively.

To the President of the Consultation of Texas } Yrs respectfully S. F. Austin

New Orleans 20 Oct. 1835.

To the Officers of the Provisional Govmt of Texas.

Comte of Nav. to Same, Papers which will be handed you by Mr E. Hall that movements have been made in our City in favour of the Texian Emigrants, in furtherance of which our Company consisting of about fifty men well armed, and provided will leave tomorrow, to go, via Natchitoches: another company five, in Company the bearer of this: and a vessel well armed and furnished and manned by about one hundred and fifty efficient Emigrants, will sail for Tampico under the Command of General Mejia in about one week; with such acquisitions to your present force and resources we trust that matters will be brought to a speedy and glorious termination, God be with you!

Wm Christy } Acting
Jas Mauray } Committee

4.

Confidential

New Orleans Nov 4th 1805

Col S.F. Austin

My Dear Sir

From Fisher
To
S.F. Austin

My last respects to you were per Columbus— This goes per Louisiana, In my last I have informed you of my plan of operations and now I give you further and more ample advices, We will leave here on the 5th instant for Tampico, armed and equiped as the circumstances require— where we will find every thing in readiness, & the assistance and Cooperation of the Steamboat, its establishment at the Bar, the Pilot, and all, already initiated and awaiting for us— From thence we will proceed to Matamoras where likewise everything is provided for, and the Montezuma being in the Brazos Santiago (according to the news received this morning per the Schr. Pearl 6 days from Matamoras,) will inevitably fall a prize to us— The Revenue Cutter Santo Pedro of Orleans is run into this port from the Capture— There are at present here 4 Mexican Vessels in this port, and bound to Tampico, viz Criz, Campeachy—

Let me again remind you of Dr. P Gomez Farias to be called to Texas, as the only constitutional authority of the Mexican Republic, whose establishment in your Country as the Executive of the Nation, and his call upon his Countrymen will inevitably unite the liberal mexicans, and become Supporters of your cause, whereas otherwise the false doctrine propagated by the Satelites of the Usurper, that Texas is declared its Independence from the Mexican Nation, will make them proselites to their own cause,

You will discover Mr. Burnets opinion upon this point, in his letter directed to the directors of the Political affairs of Texas. If we get the Montezuma, as I hope we will, then we will leave from a Squadron to stop the Revenue of the Usurper, And cutting his resources, put him down, at least, prevent him to molest you by sea, for the whole coast from Tabasco to Jaspec will be ours— My sept I hope I will be able to send you by express via Natchez & Goliad by land— Hoping to hear from you shortly I am Dr Sir, Yrs very truly

George Fisher

P.S. I am going in this capacity of Secretary to the Expedition, we have came five officers, about 150 in all.

P.S. Carvajal Fernando de Leon & Peter have chartered a vessel, to come here in few days for the "Garitas" with provisions and merchandize, for family use, as they say.

Gonzales, 28th Oct. 1835.

To the President of the Council
at San Filipe

Sir

Whenever it becomes every good Citizen and friend to his country to be at his post to guard the interest, the rights, the honor, & liberty of his Country from the attacks of its foes no matter from what Quarter they may be made. We therefore deem it our imperious duty to advise you of the conduct of some individuals who style themselves Citizens of the County but who are in fact its worst and most dangerous enemies. To satisfy your mind of the truth and correctness of our assertions we submit to you a plain unvarnished Statement of facts without the least comment whatsoever.

To day Sam Houston of Nacogdoches arrived in this place on his return to the Consultation of all Texas, his conduct here has evidenced the most discontented and envious Spirits mixed with the most unmeasured vanity

He has peremptorily ordered that the Company in advance should proceed no further towards San Antonio, but on the County to commence a retreat back to the Colonies. He has endeavored to discourage our men by ridiculing a Siege, and alleging the impracticability of taking Bexar. He has tried to induce our men to return, by declaring we ought not to march against San Antonio. He has even attempted to persuade one of our messengers, to refuse to proceed further, but to leave the Command and return, he had the impudence to order the Blacksmith who were at work on the Cannon to stop in fact he has in the course of two or three hours stay in this Town, done more to convince every reflecting mind, that he is a vain, ambitious, envious, disappointed, discontented man, who desires the defeat of our army, that he may be appointed to the Command of the next, viz —

We make this Statement not to create divisions in your Councils, but to warn the friends of the County against the insidious attempts of designing ambitious men who have an eye to their own ambitious Projects, rather than to the good of the County —

We have mentioned but one name, there are others who may truly be Styled traitors in the ranks, but these are the more hangers on of the above named individual Sam Houston whom we this morning in Gentlemen we are yours depd
the most peremptory manner ordered me not
to proceed with the Cannon without allowing
any reason why I should not. &c &c

Geo. Huff
Spencer H. Jack

#9

New Orleans 29 Oct. 1835.

P. A. Mexico To the Gentlemen Directors of
To Public affairs in Texas.

Gentlemen

Gentlemen,

Being unwilling to remain any longer a cold Spectator of the difficulties under which our Republic is suffering in consequence of the perfidy and bad faith of the Perfidy Faction who have usurped the reigns of Government, I have made an effort more than common in order that I might be useful in the noble cause which has always formed one in its results, and one which you are now sustaining with such noble decision - Until such time as, things had arrived at a point of open rupture with the Mandarines of Mexico, while there was ever a hope that an accomodation between the haughty Tyrants and the Colonies, I did not wish to meddle with the questions that were in agitation, but now, that they have cast their pretentions so far as to extinguish the last Spark of Mexican Liberty in order that they might afterwards establish and order of things incompatible with the days in which we live; I cast off with one hand the cloak of Philosophy in which I had invested myself, and grasping with the other the Sword which I never have yet unsheathed, unless it was to sustain the cause of the people, Convinced that you are in yourselfs sufficiently strong and that my services may be more useful in another point, and with a view to call the attention of the Usurping Govt. to one of its, resorts, from whence it derives its principal support, I have determined to make a descent upon Matamoras Tampico for which place I shall make sail in a few days, with this object which is so important I have armed a Schooner with a 12 lb Carronade and 2 pieces of 8 lb Calibre and a crew of fifty men armed and provisioned for two months, having also 15 a men armed and equipped for land Service, and all in good Spirits - In all this I have been under the necessity of pledging my credit to effect Loans and make Lucrative offers, but all has been done with the advice and approbation of our illustrious Vice President, (Gomez Farias) who will remain in this city until we can place him in Safety in the Republic, without his being exposed - My arrangements in Tampico are such, that I trust that the objects of the enterprize are certain in their attainment unless some extraordinary or unforseen Circumstance should intervene, but if every thing should transpire to frustrate our plans, I shall be advised of it on my arriving in sight of the place, in which event, I shall shape my course for Matamoras in which place we may count upon a large body of friends from

the interior who will assist us, at all events, what is of much importance, and what I particularly recommend is, that we pay strict attention to the coast, organizing a naval force, sufficient to capture and frustrate any expedition that may be fitted out from Vera Cruz or Tampico against us—

With the understanding that the only resources of the enemy are the products of the customs houses on the coast and it is obvious that we should deprive them of this resource, and away them by any means in our power,

You need not have the least doubt but that in the interior public sentiment is generally in our favour, and that the people are only waiting for an opportunity to throw off the yoke, that the Texian Party have made to heavy an effort— Daily I am receiving Communications from the interior and lately I have received from the Governor of Tamaulipas an invitation to join him a against Tyranny in such times that so soon as we should present ourselves we have here a force sufficient for the triumph of liberal principles.

It also appears to me necessary that our Communications should be frequent and if there should be a necessity for operations on the coast, you should make arrangements for them in order that the result of our enterprize may be favorable, in the attainment of all which, more than half depends, in the celerity & activity of our movements— as it may happen that in the course of our Campaign we shall be obliged to use much precaution in our correspondence, in order to prevent intercepsion, I send you enclosed a "Cifer" in which we may write all matters of importance, you in english and I in Spanish.

I conclude this letter felicitating myself that I am about to enter in the noble cause in which you are engaged, and is because I shall have comrades that will not succumb until the last shall cease to exist, and because without vanity I feel myself worthy this friendship of the Texians, to whom Irish Union, Constancy, & that Victory may crown all their efforts,

Remain Gentlemen,
Your friend & compatriot,
J. Kerr,

George town Ky. Nov 30 1835.

To Messrs Austin & Wharton,
Gentlemen

F. B. Might
To
Sam Houston

I trust you will pardon the liberty I take in thus addressing you, and attribute it I beg of you to an ardent desire to die the cause in which you have embarked, triumphant, I write you for the purpose not only of offering

my own views, but the opinion of one of more experience Judgement, to a subject in which I feel deeply interested and you will I trust pardon me if I make a few remarks introductory to that subject.

Your adopted Country (Texas) is now invaded by a foe a foe which all friends of Liberty must hope to see you triumphantly repulse, which foe you are doubtless prepared to meet in every way by Land, but for which you have made no preparation to meet on the Ocean and that foe may sail up and down your coast, plundering your inhabitants and those you would wish to assist them, preventing an intercourse upon the high seas between yourselves and your friends more Northerly, obstructing that assistance which is necessarily essential for you to receive, blockading your harbors, terrifying the inhabitants along your Sea Coast, and rendering every assistence to their Country now with whom you are at war on Shore, Should not some measure be adopted to remedy this evil? It surely ought, the measure I would respectfully propose is this, (it is one that has met with the sanction of some of our most experienced and distinguished naval officers) that you Should commission, one, two, or three small vessels, Schooners or Brig cutters (of 120 to 160 tons burthen) to cruise up and down your coast, to protect the vessels trading with your inhabitants, and to wage war upon the commercial enemy- Such vessels as I have mentioned, carrying a battery of ten guns of twelve lbs calibre, with a forty two pounder Amidships, manned with from 50 to 75 able seamen, could compete with the largest vessel in the Mexican Service The expense of fitting such vessel in a most efficient manner, would be from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars each, men could be found who would serve for a recompense to be paid in Lands; the Service which these vessels would render in one year would amply repay for the expenses of fitting them,

What would and must be the difference to you, your ports are protected from the enemy, Why the vessels of the U.S. flocking to your country, carrying to your ports the produce And plenty of this country, the means of our intercourse always Kept open, confidence and peace restored to the citizens along the coast, besides gaining a respect, and offering an intercourse with foreign nations!

These vessels I have proposed to you can be contracted for and properly equipped, in the Port of Baltimore, there are here several officers of experience, who would with pleasure volunteer their services to render those vessels efficient, I offer with pleasure my poor services to your assistance, I have

been in the Naval Service of my country, for the greater part and have pursued my avocation with pleasure, from a deep attachment to it, I would willing future as at your disposal all Despatches, which is my time attention & knowledge (would to God I could say wealth,) If you can point out any way to put out this means of defence, I have pointed out, and which is apparently (to me) most important— I ask no recompense for giving my all to assist you in gaining that Blessing (which among true American must first) Liberty, There are officers in the navy who would join me in offering our assistance as our Native Element the Sea, I have the honor to be With Respect Your obt Servant Francis B. Wright Lieut. U.S. N.S.

Executive Department of Texas
December 9. 1835.

Gov. Smith, To Genl. Edward Burleson Comdt
In Chief of the Volunteer Army at Bejar
E. Burleson.

Respected Sir

An Express by P.W. Paine arrived late to night with the information of a descent of your army on the town of Bejar with their present situation &c, calling on me for reinforcements ammunition &c, I have forwarded by the same express all the ammunition that the place could afford, and before daylight dispatched a faithful messenger, Lt Wylie to Washington, who promised that he would without delay forward all the ammunition at that place amounting to say 14 Kegs powder lead unknown quantity— under an escort, if possible under of 100 men, requisitions are on their march daily for head Quarters, On the arrival of the Express, I issued my proclamation calling for volunteers to rally Immediately with to your assistance, armed & equipped for battle which will be circulated by express to every part of Texas, so soon as published, so that I have no doubt on my part that as soon as practicable you will receive a considerable number of reinforcements,

You will regularly keep us advised of your situation and movements, wants &c. as arrangements have been made to supply all of which are here mentioned, and it is confidentially hoped supplies will arrive in time to supply all your necessities, The eyes of the people of Texas are upon You, and their most fervent prayers are up for your success,

You are expected to continue your trains until Council, do it. Let not this people be disappointed, I must desire that you will distinguish yourself by retrieving the imbecility and past Errors of your predecessors, remember you are surrounded by false friends who are calculated to breed confusion and retard your prospects, contrary to the true interests of Texas, I send nothing for you, but those insinuating Characters who are found of Mexican policy, for the purpose of promoting their own individual interests, to the ruin of Texas, I thus take the liberty to caution you, well knowing if you were aware of their intrigues that you would use every means in your power to counteract them, the Council, contrary to my knowledge or consent, furnished to Col. Gonzales an ant fit of $8,000 to co operate with you to the reduction of that place, I have no faith in him & you will keep a strict eye on him, and if he should seem not to act in good faith, I now order you to arrest him and his men, disarm them and hold them as prisoners of War, subject to my order, I will you to use every means in your power to and keep an open Council so that they may co operate to advantage, Texas must fall and I confidently hope by your hands, you shall have every aid and support that Texas can afford, every effort will be used to sustain Texas under her present organization, both, by her own citizens and foreigners,

The intriguing party who are allied to Mexican policy and interest for the purpose of sustaining their own ruinous speculations will fail, the honest people have manifested jealousy against them, and their eyes are still open, Where jealousy and suspicion is aflood, respecting previous encouragement at Camp, believing the intention with many was to sustain that policy—I wish you particularly to look out for that, and do not suffer yourselves to be deceived, I also enjoin that you should keep clear of such descriptions Believe nothing you may hear derogatory to the present organization of Texas, it will be sustained, and must be, or the country is lost, Our agents have been dispatched to the United States to raise men and means, and will I have no doubt succeed in both, we have information this which is encouraging, and confidently hope we will be able to fit out a formidable campaigne in the spring both by land and sea, it expected by the people that Began will fall by your hands, do not disappoint them, Reduce it with as little loss and delay as possible, use every means to keep unanimity and good feeling in our Camp, The Credit and Character of the country depends upon you, Communicate with me often let

your wants be known, and they shall be promptly attended to, You will use the following address, "To his Excellency Henry Smith Governor of Texas. (!)

With Sentiments of respect & consideration, I am your friend Obedt Servant

Henry Smith

Governor (!)

San Felipe 9 December 1835.

San Filipe de Austin Dec 8th 1835.

Genl A. C. Garrett Velasco

Sir

I have just rec'd. your note of this date to C. Barrett, in which you request my opinion as to calling a convention, without delay, on the plan of equality of Representation as nearly as practicable.

In two communications which I have made to the provisional Govt, under date 30th ult, and 2nd inst, I took a view of the present political situation of the country which has a close connection with the subject of your enquiry, I refer you to them, as those communications were of an official character, the object of which was to State facts, as I understood them, I gave no opinion as to when the convention should be called, believing it to be more proper to leave the provisional Government to draw its own conclusions,

The present communication is of a different character, I am directly called upon to give an opinion, & should comply with this request with great diffidence did I not believe that the prudent and better Judgement of the Council, (to which you say it will be submitted by you as Chairman of the committee of State) will detect any incorrect or false positions it may contain,

The Genl. Consultation of Texas was elected at a time when the country was distracted by popular excitement occasioned by the diversity of opinions which naturally resulted from the difficulty of Some what the federal Govt would be elected or was even attacked, the excited & intemperate zeal of others and the Concealment of certain information in all it could not be reasonably expected that a body elected under such circumstances would be entirely free from the conflicting opinions that prevailed amongst their constituents, or that a clear and positively decisive position would be taken by it, The majority of Texas so far as her opinion can be formed from the acts of the people at their primary meetings, was decidedly in

of declaring in positive clear and decided terms for the Federal constitution of 1824, and for the organization of a Local Government, either as a State of the Mexican confederation, or provisionally until the Authorities of the State of Coahuila & Texas could be restored. This measure was absolutely necessary to save the country from anarchy, for it was left without any Government at all, owning to the dispersion and imprisonment of the Executive and Legislative Authorities by the unconstitutional intervention of the Military Power, Some individuals were also in favour of independence, tho' no public meetings, whose proceedings I have seen, expressed such an Idea.

We have seen the consequences of these conflicting Opinions in the declaration made by the Consultation on the 7 of last month- It is not entirely positive and definite in its character, whether or not the crisis in which Texas is now placed can be met, and sufficiently provided for, by a position which admits of construction in its application, is a matter of opinion, as for myself, I believe it cannot,

The character of the Struggle in which Texas is engaged, is now clearly developed! It evidently is one of life or death, "to be or not to be" it is no longer a mere question about the forms of political constitutions, it is one of Self preservation, the Govt. of Mexico have so proclaimed,

The people now understand their situation and consequently are much better prepared to elect public agents to provide against such danger, than they were at the time of the last election, at that time the form of Government was not changed by any act which had the influence, or the character of law, It now is by the decree of 3 October last; at that time the State Governments existed, at this, no such thing as a State exists nor exists in name, the decree of 3 October has converted, them into departments, without any legislative powers whatever, and entirely subject to the orders of the President & Central Government in Mexico,

Again, the Representation in the Consultation was very unequal, a principal that should be cautiously avoided as far as practicable in a body that is to settle the political destinies, of a community in how ever are equally interested

The Consultation foreseeing that such a crisis as the present might arise, have very wisely provided for the calling of a new convention, by the Provisional Govt. and I am already of the opinion it ought to be

done with the least possible delay.

Another necessity renewed in favor, is that the World are not yet sufficiently informed, or enlightened on the causes or merits of the present contest, The people of Texas have been and now are accused of being ungrateful rebels, who have repaid the favors and bounties of the nation with ingratitude and rebellion, This accusation is unfounded and unjust,

That Individuals have committed infamous acts, and even excesses, and by so doing have injured the character and the best interests of Texas, by giving a pretext to our Enemies to confound the whole of the people, with those individuals, may be true, but when the causes of such Excesses are sought for, they will be found to have proceeded from, bad Govt, bad legislation, or no Govt at all. Is this the fault of Texas? Whenever the people have tried to get a local organization of their Government, in order to correct and punish such Excesses, they have been treated as rebels, so that the people are denounced, because the want of local government produces anarchy and whenever, they attempt to apply a remedy they are treated as ungrateful rebels!!!.

This country has been redeemed from the wilderness by the people who now live in it, and without any cost to the General Government or to the nation the settlers were stimulated to persevere and to overcome the most appalling difficulties by the guarantees of a liberal System of Government, and of the right of self Government in their internal affairs, as state of the mexican confederation— The Lands they received were granted and sold by the State of Coahuila & Texas and not by the General Government, (except a few old grants previous to the establishment of the Federal System) and it is worthy of notice that one of the Crimes attributed to the Authority of the State of Coahuila & Texas by the Gen. Govt, as a Justification for its military intervention, was the Granting the lands, and yet the Gen. Govt. Claim all the merit of having given away to the Texans !!

These Lands and this Country at the Commencement of the Settlement 14 years ago were valueless, and as considered by the General Govt. They became the State property of the State ~~of~~ of Coahuila and Texas, and the State alone had the Power to dispose of them, the State authorities always considered them to be valueless, a proof of which is the manner in which they have been disposed of— Given away for nothing to native Mexicans in clusters

tracts and sold to them and to the Colonists, (for all the land acquired by the foreign settlers was sold to them by the State,) at from thirty to one hundred dollars per square league— in 1833, thirty square leagues of land were voted by the State legislature, to a young man (who had previously received a grant of eleven leagues, as pay for nine years Salary for his services as a Judge, some 800 Square leagues were sold by their legislators in 1834 & 1835. to Speculators principally foreigners, and to themselves for the same legislators who passed the law, for a part of this sale were fore-traders of from about 50 to 75 & 100 ℔ per square league* This Specimine of the numerous legislations of Coahuila & Texas as to Lands, is a fair Specimine of their legislations in all other matters A large portion of this country has thus been thrown away into the hands of Speculators, and entangled by conflicting Claims— And are the people of Texas to blame for all this? were they their acts that involved this country in a perplexing Land Labyrinth and in anarchy and revolution? No, It was the acts of native born Mexican Legislators and revolutionists.

This subject and all other Matters connected with Texas aught to be fully explained in a manifesto from the representatives of the People, this is the first & another reason why a convention aught to be called, the fact is now evident that Texas is engaged in a struggle for Existence, against great numerical strength and resources, and she must supply her physical incapacity by the injustice of her cause, If she cannot do this she deserves to fall,

For the reasons expressed I am of opinion a convention should be called without any delay, to meet as soon as it is possible to hold the elections and convene the members, this is also the decided opinion of the Citizens volunteers of the army as expressed to me very generally before I left the Camp.

The provisional Government will of course continue in full force until changed by the Convention & its labours in my opinion have been directed by the purest desire to promote the General good, and merit the approbation of the Country,

I remain very respectfully
Your Humble Servant
S. F. Austin

*Note.

It is not my intention to cast any censure on the

or on the individuals who purchased, The object of the former was to raise funds out of the sale of Texas lands to replenish the State Treasury which was empty, The latter were Speculators whose object was to take advantage of any law or circumstance that favoured their views I have mentioned this subject to prove more clearly the fact that all the legislation of both Genl. and State Govts, on the subject of Texas lands, has been based on the full belief that they were value less; and that the Nation and the State were great gainers by getting this wilderness settled, so as to have a barrier against the Indians, without any cost whatever to the nation, on the contrary with the Gain of from 30. to 100$ per Square League,

There never has been any kind of Organization in Texas that merits even the name of a Govt. at least not since the year 1827. The moral principle of the people Governed them, and kept the country quiet, Peace prevailed until last may, in that month a revolutionary call was thrown into it by the State authorities, to increase the irritation and bring this country into revolution or into anarchy & ruin so as to involve it in a war to which they give the character of a national and against foreign adventurers, and yet according to the general Government of Mexico the people of Mexico alone are to blame for every thing and deserve death. It is something like the Fable of the wolf who devoured a sheep for muddying the water of a brook in which they were both drinking at the same time, the wolf some hundred yards above the sheep, That same acts have been committed in Texas, which I have always disapproved, and still disapprove is well known, they were reprobated and disapproved by the great Mass of the people, But that these Individual acts were of the character, which the Govt of Mexico, say they are or that all Texas should be condemned to ruin on this account, is as false a pretext as the Wolfs. for eating the Sheep. the Truth is that Libard and free born Texas must be banished from Texas as these have been or perhaps will be from all Mexico, to suit the views of the central Party, to do this, the people of Texas must be annihilated, and some reasons must be given to the world for so harsh a measure The memoirs circulated by my enemies that I was interested or in any way concerned in the large land sales & speculations is false.

S. F. Austin

59

To the Commissioners

Nacogdoches Oct. 8. 1835.

S.F.A. I recommend most particularly that you send a compe-
tent person to Tenoxtitlan after the command at that
Commissioners place and have brought down to Washington or Saint-
Filipe so as to be ready mounted for the Nacogdoches
troops to bring on, they must not leave it— write in my
name to J.F. McKinney to send up at any cost, all the
lead and Powder he can, If the Cannon at Harris-
burgh can be got over, it would be well to do so, it ought
to be done every one must be active now,

S.F. Austin

Send me some Sugar and coffee, & a quires paper,
& 2 or 4 Sticks Sealing wrap and some wafers, it is uncer-
tain when I shall be back, write by every opportunity to
Nacogdoches and Anahuac bayou, Send lead me wants
lead, let them know this at New Orleans, there is some
Sealing Wax in my Black trunk I believe

S.F. Austin

To Gail Borden & others
Members of the Commissioners

You might get some one from
Colo settlement to go for the Command at Tenoxtitlan. I must
Allcorn would go, write to Nacogdoches that you have
sent some one for it to be at Washington,

Send me a blank book that is in the next trunk, it
is the one that I commenced copying letters in, it is foolscap paper, send all three by first safe hands, also send me
Post letter and my answer, and copy of my letter to Nacogdoches
it is in Spanish, & also in the file, also Thompsons proclamation
it in print and on file or in the papers are in one of the frigecoshes,

S.F. Austin

Also send me the proceedings of the first meeting at
Nacogdoches 16 Aug, and the meeting at San Filipe 12 Sept,
& in short the proceedings of the first meeting at Colorado &
San Augustine and all the other meetings in any place where
they have resolved to support the Constitution 1824, Just
have the proceedings of San Augustine & Nacogdoches,

S.F.A.

N.B.

By request of Austin your wife send his Shirts, they are
in his trunk- Moseley.

S.F. Austin

San Filipe Oct 13 1835

To Col S. F. Austin &
the Council at Head Quarters

Gentlemen,

The dispatches from
R. R. Royall Post Comd. I was sent you yesterday by Mr Borden, we answered
To Captain Cochinwith in a way ahead of the enemy intercepted
Austin &c. - it they will be in no wise discouraged, we sent yesterday
morning by Mr Mundo Gob Horton four & and 800 lbs of good
deal to the at Stafords old place,

The Cannon from Harrisburgh we hope will be here this
evening, and will be forwarded so soon as we can get a sufficient
guard to protect it, unless you advise otherwise, Every step has
been taken to expite active movements, and I the Regular as well
as the Committee from Trinity informs me that more men
may be expected from that Quarter, as yet nothing has been
received from Cyrus Bryan and Nacogdoches, but we think
that assistance will certainly come and from there soon as the expedi-
ment prevailing, and a disposition of hostile intentions on the part
of the Indians are quieted,

Information by Mr Bryan advises, states that Judge
Martin & Lewis stated that the Citizens after holding a Coun-
cil addressed a letter to the inhabitants conveying their proc
ceedings, and the fact that their Council retained entirely to their own
affairs - he also (Mr B.) states that two influential men sent by
the Committee of this place, to Cox Bayou, where he supposed they
will turn out forty men,

The Cannon and Powder from Matagorda we confident-
ly hope to see on the way, but for fear that the little apprehension in that
vicinity prevent the Execution of the order so far as relates to the
Cannon, send a list of the Powder, we think it may have well for
you to send a confidential person to meet it

It is ascertained that the cannon at Gonzales is
spiked,

Since, news of good authority came in yesterday of one
man and boy killed and a family carried off from little
River, and that three men were in pursuit, that however
cannot be many miles their those small parties that have been
for some time lurking and scouting,

We will add to the list, we have had conversation with many
persons, at and passing this place, and think they very generally question the propriety
of any Commissioner so much in any allegiance to Mexico as may be consistent with a Mexican Chief as
the Command prevailing (they say), that so long as we have any connection with them,
we cannot expect to be settled in Government.

Very Respectfully,
A. R. Royall Post of Comm

C. B. Stewart
Secretary.

61

Guadeloupe 12 o'clk Oct. 8 1835.

In Camp
Col L. T. Austin

Lieut. Col. Collinsworth
To
L. T. Austin

Dear Sir.

I have this day stopped an express directed to you from Martin Perfecto de Cos, which I deemed of same importance to our movements, consequently have taken the liberty of opening it, and have revealed and dispatched with all possible speed, we shall enter Labahia to night or to morrow, there is from 50 to 100 troops in that place, I have under my charge 47 good and effective men which I think all sufficient to take that place, from whence if I have no advice I shall direct my march to Berjar, I also enclose you a letter from the Custom House at Goliad to Mr Merritt without a signature,

In haste your obedient Servt,
Geo. W. Collinsworth,

Guadeloupe Victoria Oct 10. 1835. 11 o'clk P.M.

To the council of Nav at Gonzales

This moment Col McLane with an escort of a few men bringing with them three officers passing from Goliad bound to San Filipe, a copy of the following letter will elucidate the matter,

"Goliad 8 Oclock A.M. Oct 10, 1835

To Captain Reed Smith

Dear Sir

I arrived here last night at 11 o'clock and marched into the fort by forcing the church doors, and after a small fight they surrendered with 3 officers & 21 soldiers to get the with 3 wounded and one killed, I had one of my men wounded in the shoulder, they have dispatched Couriers for troops to several points, and expect I shall need your aid, there are plenty of Public horses near here, but I have not sufficient force to send after them and protect myself, come on as speedily as possible -

Geo. W. Collinsworth

You will please communicate with Col P. H. Brown on this subject of my letter, and since the above was written I have been informed that 50 troops were expected to day or tomorrow, come on as speedily as possible, for. Brown will "give us the slip"

G. W. C.

On the arrival of Captain Smith and Wiley yesterday at Banes we were informed that Captain Collinsworth had-

passed this place at 11 Oclk yesterday, for expeditying the detachment, they encamped for the night, this morning they crossed the Guadalupe and passed for La Bahia, and no doubt will be there by two or 11 Oclk to morrow, Colo Dimm & myself came by this place to hurry on supplies of sugar & coffee, and will take and 50 lbs. of gun powder to Goliad. The battalion now forming in Goliad will be in want of them. I have been informed that the inhabitants of Gonzales have 300 lbs at Seguin or Santanno, but the information is to be called on to send for it, I shall send several copies of this to the Committee of correspondence at San Felipe, I mean to say to you that the three companies will form a Battalion and march for Bejar, But of this movement you shall be advised so as to produce concert of action, My opinion is that no time is to be lost, as you will see by Capt. Collinsworths letter that large reinforcements have been called for, When the Battalion is organized we will be 800 strong, I presume to say the battalion will undoubtedly march towards Bejar, the names of the officers are Lieut. Col, Sandoval, Captain Saucedo and Ensign Jarvis.

With respect &c

James Kerr

11

11 Oct 7 Oclk A.M.

Express just Received from Captain Collinsworth dated last night 8 Oclock, He is somewhat alarmed, he has 10,000 lbs in Public Store, 300 Stands of Arms, and there is a number of Public horses near him, I have returned his Courier with information that Smiths and Kelly's Companys are near him, also I send night off an express to the detachments to pass for La Bahia, Col Milam will go with the Prisoners to Gonzales, this morning &c,

James Kerr

Address

To the citizens of the United States of north America,

Friends & Relations,

Oct 9 1835

We make an earnest appeal to Your Justice and Philanthropy. Our homes are invaded by an Enemy powerful in numbers if not in courage and we invite your assistence speedily, We appeal to your magnanimity for the Sanctity of our cause. Our citizens are all in civil, either civil or military, Our committees will meet on the 15th this month, and I pledge myself that satisfactory arrangements will be made to compensate each adventurer, we have land enough to satisfy your most extravagant expectations even Laurels for each Warriors Brow. R K Mor... Texas

To the Inhabitants of Texas residing East of the Guadalupe,
Fellow Citizens

Piedras, We have received within your country reports to
To the services of every nature and kind, information received through our
Texian citizens, unquestionable channels early yesterday, leaves not the least doubt
of the movement of a very considerable force on this place,
from the South, and we are informed this morning by an arrival from
Bexar of the intention of the Commandor of that Post, to send a large
detachment thence against this place, four hundred men were appoin-
ted to march in Bexar when our informant left there, in two or three days,
the whole force in Texas, is reported by the Mexicans to be 1500 men,
the South is said to be 1500 men, we can now only muster 80, men
strong at this post, and were we have been in almost daily expectation,
that we should be attacked by this force, we have been employed
day and night, repairing our walls, making cartridges, putting the works in a defen-
sible condition, mounting Artillery, Patrolling - Scouring the country
and putting a small detachment in motion to give confidence among
us, If attacked by this force with which we are now threatened,
aided by heavy artillery as we have reason to believe, it will be to place
breaches in the walls of this post, by which time we can hardly
hope to make a successful defence, but all citizens who value the country and
who value their homes naturally and justly, but above all to the dictates of
duty,

A Spy has from this moment been sent in by Genl Cos with dispatches to citizens residing here, and is dated
the 4th at Bexar which says a reinforcement of 500, will soon
be marched, & will then make a desperate effort to take Texians,
private families are urged to remove, that this post be given up
for the count of a few men, and the Key to all the Settlers of the country
given surrendered into their hands, & if sufficiently Respectable citizens to
march Patriotism will be active in the bosoms of our brave countrymen,
to succour it, In anticipation of their arrival, supplicate supplies of
Provisions &c will be sent to Gonzales Victoria Goliad,
Ammunition will also be forwarded, all persons should bring as much
as possible, for all who have and all our kind relations may yet see needed
Nothing however should be absolutely indispensable, all should assist
prepared to stem mutiny the temptation is done a little therefore Especially
discharges! all precautions for the movement are by our Government
Cause we expect, If not echo our call back Cos, a few days will settle
the question, not a moment must be lost, on delay our heavy to may 30
prevent ourselves, the Colonists must save the country The committee
at Montgordo are earnestly desired to forward this despatches
to Velasco in the most possible time furnished with all the mounted Rangers
that they can raise, to join them with as many as possible supply of ammun-
ition, provisions, that Genl Austin sent in a flag to Cos, who refused to have
any communication with him as a Mutiny chief, In a late proclamation

he declared his willingness to receive a correspondence with him, even informal meeting that of the most amiable kind he could. find me to,
This makes it a case of extermination on the part of the Enemy shall we sleep, or shall we awake, like men!

Fellow Citizens, we have either to fight for our homes or fly our country, Then let us occupy the frontier, thereby cutting off the Enemy and Communication with Mexico, so, known to the enemy that we are not unworthy descendents of Washington, that we are of the blood made memorable by the love of liberty and that Patriotism beats as Courage with Constant when its home is invaded or insulted,
Fort Velasco 8 oclk P.M. Oct 21 1835.

P. Smith

Fellow Citizens

The above speaks its own importance, and it is declared by the most imperious circumstances the truth, and that only is known to you. It is now left for you to decide for you to act,
Yes respectfully
Your Obt. Svt.

Letters, Proclamations, &c. of Political Chiefs
In June, July & August, 1835.

Secretary of the Department of Brazos.

To the Inhabitants of the Department of Brazos

Fellow Citizens

Having duly
Considered with the importance of the present crisis in the affairs of Texas, and the impending extent to which Community seems likely to press I deem it now duty as the highest Constitutional officer of the Department to call upon you in the name of the Constitution and laws of the Union we have all sworn to support, to remain tranquil and quiet until you are legally called out by the Constituted authorities to which all are bound to yield obedience, in the present critical condition of our Country, it is important that every man should be on the alert, yet it is alike important to the Common safety of all, that no other orders should be obeyed than those emanating from the proper officers, & that no movement should be made, but in Common one, in a Common cause, I have therefore thought proper to issue this my Proclamation, Commanding and exhorting all the good citizens of this Department to remain strictly obedient to the Constitution and laws of the land, and to pay no regard to any other orders except those issued by the highest Political authority now in existence, in the Se

and to engage in no hostile movement not expressly authorized by this Ordinance.— These are the measures that Texas owes to herself & circumstances, which are the most sanguine that Texas ever knew, They have been dictated for the general good of the inhabitants; and I entertain the most sanguine hopes that they will be adopted,

God & Liberty— Accepted— July 12th 1835.

W. H. Wharton

Ayuntamientos of the Jurisdiction of Colorado

To Wm. Pettus

A. Brigham—

Ayuntamiento

To

Wm. Pettus

Sir

To His Excellency James W. Robinson,

Gov.

Yours official of the first day of July was duly received & has been taken into consideration by this body, and resolutions have been passed which communicate your orders for the organization of the Militia &c, on the 9th day of the present month,

The Ayuntamiento of this Jurisdiction have this day been specially called for the purpose of taking into consideration the disorganized and confused state of Affairs of the Country and to suggest to your excellency such a course as to them shall seem best calculated to promote the General Good— This Ayuntamiento views with the deepest regret, the great evils which at present threaten and assailed Country, and in order to avert if possible, the dreadful calamity which now seems almost inevitable, we would beg leave to suggest, to your excellency the propriety of calling to your assistance, two or more delegates as you may deem necessary from each of the Jurisdictions of your Department, to aid and assist you in devising means for the safety, and security & peace of the Country, and to invite the two Chiefs of the other departments, of Texas to Join with you in Council, they bringing delegates from each Jurisdiction of their respective Departments,— and we would further recommend to your excellency to open an immediate Correspondence with the officers of Government, representing to them the loyalty and attachment of the citizens of your department to the Government, this determination to support the laws and Constitution, and that you wish to remain at peace with the Mexican nation, all of which are dear subjects of the deepest interest and must with importance to the citizens of this Department, and of Texas Generally,.

All of which is most respectfully submitted, for your deliberation; in the mean time we take this opportunity of tendering to your excellency, the assurance of our highest consideration,

Colorado July 11th, 1835.

God & Liberty—
A. Brigham
Chairman of the Ayuntamiento

W. J. Pledge
Secretary

Commandancy Genl. and inspector of the Eastern internal States

The want of system which has been made to prevail in the policy of Texas has necessarily introduced the most without a name, without morality or any employment by which to subsist, who regarding nothing in a revolution, are continually employed in getting up disorder and making the country people of Texas believe that the Supreme Government has hostile intentions, & intentions to prejudicate them in their interests. This falsehood so much heard of, must serve to irritate the good citizens into a condition the dread arms,

I feel myself constrained to call upon their good judgment! That they not listening to those iniquitous suggestions, may attend of nothing but to augment their prosperities always respecting the laws of the Republic,

In this manner they will have the protection of the Supreme Government and every species of guaranty on the part of this Commandancy Genl,

I have been informed that in order to accomplish their designs the Revolutionists are endeavoring to make the entrance of the troops which His Excellency the President of the Republic is sending there, responsible on the commencement of the destructions of the colonies, If this Idea be extravagant, may have deceived the inventors, The people in general will view it in its proper light, because it is not probable that they should give their assent to an imputation so unjust, for the principles which have guided the views of the Mexican Government, and its desires for the prosperity of Texas to whose inhabitants it has dispensed every species of favor, as is well known.

If for the establishment of custom houses it should be necessary to establish some Military detachments, this ought not to alarm the people, of Texas, because for from interfering with their interest, it would be an assistance to them and they would have one guaranty more on which to depend for their security (!) On the other hand it is truly very reasonable that some civic exposed persons, have been able to make them believe that the Mexican Government, on that need to send troops to those places when it may think proper.

Texas is an integral part of the Republic, and as troops are sent to garrison, for example, the State of Chiapas or Vera Cruz, tamaulipas they may be necessary at Galveston, or any other part, and then they are established without any hesitance, because it would be a thing sufficiently ridiculous to the Mexicans for the new inhabitants of Texas, to view the Mexican Army in the same light in which the Egyptians viewed their Mameluks this constant declamation.

I am will cause the worthy citizens of your,

department to understand that always while they adhere to the Government and laws they have nothing to fear, because an armed force is not going to any point of the Republic, except that of preserving the peace and security of the citizens, whatever request these inhabitants may have, they can manifest them to the Supreme Government by legal means, and I offer to assist them always, while they remain peaceable.

As an unfeigned friend I have recommended tranquility in these eastern States, I cannot fail to stimulate your zeal and patriotism, that you, making use of your influence & persuasion will not allow it to be disturbed in any manner, because this Commanding Genl. will have a positive resentment, if it should be obliged to proceed against those who refusing to listen to its admonitions, may disturb the peace which is now enjoyed throughout the nation.

Following my advices and the punctuality of the communications and particulars regards I profess for you

God & Liberty,

Matamoras July 12 1835.

Martin Prefecto de Cad.

Department of Texas

San Felipe July 17, 1835.

To Col. Candt
at Bejar

Sir

To. — Sent. ods.

The letters received and endorsed, and others by the people of the Jurisdictions are severally referred, to investigate the truth of certain rumors & recent occurrences, which tend to place the citizens of Texas in an attitude of hostility to the general Government, Time will not now admit of a detailed account of the alleged reason for the acknowledged insult upon the Govt. agents and officers at this place and at Anahuac, Nevertheless and as soon as a full and fair expression of the people of Texas can be obtained Every exertion will be given which Justice and the Honor & dignity of all concerned may require, the people at large can never have participated either in the feelings which promoted the aggression or in any acts opposed to the legal authorities of the Mexican republic, and do, & ever will, disavow the course pursued by a few imprudent and misguided citizens, whose conduct, misplaced, might implicate the whole Community.

In communicating this communication you will communicate..... Statement of recent transactions, manifest your ignorance of the views this Gentlemen entertains, or the representations he may think proper to make of the late affair at Anahuac when he commanded, or the disposition of the people generally of this province, But presume from his long known

Station so important under the government, that he is an honorable man, and a Gentleman, and as such has been received & Stated here, since this unfortunate occurrence which has taken him in his present situation, so far as his imperfect Knowledge of our Language and every possible manifestation of the People will admit, he cannot but feel sensible of the general confidence of Texas citizens in the purity and Justice of our constitution & laws, and respect for the government, which the Mexican States have chosen,

You are respectfully requested to transmit this communication, or a copy of it to Genl. Cofs. and the President of the U.S. with a concluding assurance from us that the citizens of Texas generally, have become adopted citizens of the Mexican Republic from choice, after a full Knowledge of the constitution and Laws, that they entertain a grateful sense of the liberality of the Government towards her colonies in the distribution of lands to settlers, and other advantages tending to their convenience and prosperity, in agriculture and manufactures, that they will be prepared, on every constitutional call to do their duty as Mexican citizens in the enforcement of the laws, and promotion of order and respect for the Government, and its agents, that they will cherish those principles which most clearly demonstrate their love of peace, respect for their Mexican fellow citizens and attachment to the free and liberal institutions of their adopted Country.

Chieftancy of the Department of Brazos —

Jan 3

J B Miller P.C.b

I have the honor to acknowledge

gatehead. the receipt of your communication of the 9th July 1835, which I received with great pleasure, & have caused it to be printed & published throughout my Department the people has been very much alarmed and excited in consequence of various reports reaching this department that, the General Government intended to send in among us some land or five thousand troops for the purpose of expelling us from the country &c. during this State of alarm and excitement many acts of violence have been done, the Govt. affairs by a few individuals and which this Chieftancy had no control, The affair at Anahuac is a circumstance I regret, and as soon as I heard of it I immediately issued an order causing the arms that were taken from the troops to be given up, and ordered the Commandant this protection of this Chieftancy, and requested him to return to his station I have taken the most prompt and energetic measures to put down the excitement, and am happy to inform you my department is perfectly tranquil and I pledge myself that will so remain. Your esteemed communication when it has been read in

~~Your~~ general satisfaction, and has enabled me to tranquilize my department. I will in a few days send you a general communication and will explain every thing to your entire satisfaction, I am in hopes that we are disposed to be friendly and loyal, you may rely with confidence on my exerting all my influence and power to preserve public order and tranquility, You will be pleased to accept my assurances of the most high and distinguished consideration,

Yours &c
J. B. Miller

Chieftancy of the Department of Brazos

J.B. Miller
To
Col.

To his Excellency Genl. Martin Perfecto de Cos

And Col.

I Have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellencies communication of the 12. June 1835,

The present situation of Texas is very much to be deplored, for besides the difficulties which have occured, we have been much annoyed by Savages on our frontier, the most efficient measures within my control have been taken to chastise the Indians, and before this time they have most probably met the punishment which they deserved,

I am under the necessity of informing your Excellency that any great excitement has been and is now prevailing throughout Texas, occasioned by an apprehension that the Genl Government being misinformed as to the loyalty of the people of Texas, is disposed to pursue a course of legislation towards us which would be extremely unfortunate.

I have to inform your Excellency, that the bearer of your dispatch to the Commandant of Anahuac and who also had an interview with Col Ugartechea, was by a few individuals examined here and the communications opened. This was the result of the Excitement before alluded to,

I have the honor to enclose to your Excellency a copy of resolutions, adopted by a very large meeting in my department which evinces the feeling of a large Majority of the people,

Your Excellency may rely with confidence on my exerting all my powers to preserve the public order & tranquility and you will be pleased to accept my assurances of the most high and distinguished consideration

Austin 5th July 1835.

J.B. Millers

Principal Commandancy of
the State of Coahuila & Texas.

By Express. I just received
Yguatichea the annexed Letter for you, directed by the Commandant
to Genl. and at the same time he sent me an extract of the Contents
Millan- nts for my information, whereas by said Official letter you
are charged to use exertions for the apprehension Texan Burnett.
and when accomplished, to be sent to this city, where he will be
judged, I recommend you on my part most urgently that
you will be pleased to give full execution to this charge, as I have
likewise done before absent Lorenzo Zavala and at the Stanyan
which now the purport of my official letter of the 4th instant,

God & Liberty — Bejar 8th August 1835,

Domingo Yguatichea.

In virtue of informations in this general Commandancy
received that at the same time when you proceed to the appre-
hension of the individuals mentioned in my official letter of
the 4th instant, and in that of this date you will be pleased
to Execute it likewise on the persons of the Deputy Don Jose Ma-
ria Carrahal, & Don Juan Lambrano, with the Utmost
-security,

Bejar 8th aug. 1835,

To the Yguatichea

Extract
from Translated Extract of an Official Communication
Bermudez which the Military Commandant at the Capital of the State
Speech Jose Maria Burmudez directed to the permanent depu-
tation, on receiving notice that it had installed D. Miguel
Falcon in the office of Governor of the State,

Extracted from the Government Paper.

"If Mr Falcon by his well directed measures should calm
the fears which are not founded in realities, and cause the Phantom
to disappear, which evil reports alone have created, I shall live in the
highest contentment, and daily renew the felicitations, which
at present I have the great satisfaction to offer through your
Honor to the Hon. deputation, I beseech H. M. must earnest
ly to use your influence in every possible & legal way, in order that those
to whom it belongs, may be changed to manifest to the whole nation
that no desires exist in the Colonies to separate from the supre
me Government; that there are no troops under arms, or hos-
tile preparations; That the Texians can not and ought not
to think of erecting under the Government of the States of
North America; that it is false that the Colonists are enemies
to the Mexicans, and that so far are they from being so,
they frequently petition for Mexican functionaries & Garrisons

Priests, declaring expressly that they do not desire their commissions for the discharge of those offices; and finally, that among the Mexicans of this State, there never has been one de vile, infamous or unnatural, as to attempt to invite to Colonists absolute Lords of the country, which nations freely gave them for settlement, and as a home, under that form of System of Government, which a majority of the nation may believe to be the best adapted to it, altho' the Colonists should dislike it; for Mexico never has folidged herself to consult them will alone, but that of the whole nation. A brilliant Exhibition indeed, would the natives present, by depriving themselves of a benefit, because the favoured few should not desire it!!

I am not ignorant that it is the interest of a few that the reign of disorder should continue in Matamoros, since only in troubled waters and turbulence can they thrive

* * * \

In order therefore that you may succeed in tranquilizing the minds and in dispatching the false rumors which been spread for the purpose of compromitting the Colonists, you can shew them this communication and also manifest to them that they have nothing to fear from the introduction of troops, as their measure would have no other object than that of placing them as detachments at the posts to prevent the smuggling trade which is carried on with impunity by adventurers, and likewise to prevent the incursions of the Indians, who, when they are not chastised became every day more insolent, and frequently, commit hostilities, Nor have we ever thought of trampleing on rights lawfully acquired, of the Colonists, who ought no to doe in that the Supreme Government will attend to their representations, and will at the same time omit no means for accomplishing the grand object of the welfare of all & Each one of the inhabitants of this interesting part of the Republic- At the same time I can do no less than Expect that you will prevent the enimies of order from circulating reports, forged for the purpose of compromitting the intentions; and if there be any persons in that Department, whose unquiet and pernicious minds may be occupied in distinguishing tranquility, You will proceed to restrain him, by virtue of your authority agreeable to the Constitution and laws- on this occasion I have to offer you the protestation of my particular regard and consideration

To the Pol. Chief of the Department of San Filipe De Austin

God & Liberty Bexar J. July 1835.

Domingo Lee Ugartechea

Principal Commandancy of Coahuila & Texas.

Having received the anticipated order from Saine the Commandant General to proceed to the apprehension of Don To Lorenzo. Lavalla and knowing positively that the said Lieutenant has P. Ch. of Brazoria resided in Brazoria once is necessary in Columbia I apply to you in order that you may be pleased to use every exertion to secure this person of this Individual and those of Johnson, Williamson Travis, Williams, & Baker, with the assurance, in doing it you will render a commendable service to the country.

The apprehension of these individuals being effected, you will take measures that they be Kept in custody to prevent their flight, giving me immediate advice that arrangements may be made, to bring them in safety to this city- Such a service will prove the pacific & honorable intentions of that municipality truly obedient to the government of the Mexican Republic in the belief that every assistance in this particular will make you responsible and will oblige me to send an imposing force to that district with the above object, Be pleased to accept the assurances of my consideration and regard, God & Liberty Bexar 4th Aug. 1835. Domingo de Ugartechea

Pol. Chf. Dpto. of Br. [illegible]

Select Reports &c made to the Convention in Secret Session

The Special Committee to whom were referred certain Report of Com. Communications from the Army of the People of Nacogdoches &c
1 to Bexar, and the Name under consideration, and also the subject to Convention. Examination into the contents have formed the following Report,

An Army composed of materials such as constitutes that of the Volunteer Army of the people of Texas, has met together by an impulse of patriotism to oppose the incursions of the enemies of their Country, must necessarily be deficient in that discipline which characterizes a body governed by regular laws and regulations,

In the object, constituting more particularly the subject of this reference, your Committee have not deemed it necessary to find with a thorough investigation that there is any discrepancy in the different communications from the Commander in Chief of the Volunteer Army of the people, in relation to the amount of Provisions & corn especially in the hands of and at Command of the Army. But that when a requisition of dismounted men comprising that Army requires the number of Eight hundred Barrels are to be considered as well as the quantity of Corn necessary for its daily consumption,

Your Committee are not surprised that a scarcity of Corn at any point where any such Army shall be stationed for any length of time should speedily ensue, Averaging the number of men & horses &c. in that Army at 1,000, it would require at least 500 bushels of corn per daily consumption, which although in a regular Army could be paid out under proper rules and regulations of Economy, in a Volunteer Army must necessarily be used with less discretion and a greater degree of waste,

Your Committee therefore recommend that the suggestions contained in the communications of the Comr. in Chief of the volunteer Army of the people of Texas, should be immediately attended to, and that the provisions contained in the requisitions be furnished as soon as practicable to the volunteer Army. The Committee, therefore have render the same circumstances there always will be, an Army or garrison in Texas, adopted & Ordinance & decree which they recommend to their adoption

District Clerk
Chairman

Head Quarters near Bexar.
Nov 22nd 1835.

F. Austin To the Provisional Govt.

Yesterday I dispatched an order to Storm Bexar at day light this morning. Col. Burleson & Lieut. Col Sublett the immediate Commanders of the two divisions of the army, reported to me that a majority of the Officers and men of their respective divisions were opposed and unwilling to attempt it: In consequence of which I was compelled to abandon the measure, the siege may be prolonged some time, the Army is now out of flour and the Corn is exhausted. I therefore request that at least one hundred bushels of flour and a supply of beans Corn meal or hard biscuit, be sent to the Army without any delay.

Yours respectfully
S. F. Austin

Camp at the Mills near Bexar Nov. 18. 35.

Dear Bill.

We have been marching and Countermarching pretty much ever since I have been in Camp, and without being able to effect any thing more than to keep the Enemy within the walls But with all of our reinforcements Col Ugartechia has got with from 160 to 200 men & 160 Head of Cows, to meet a reinforcement from Laredo composed of 300 civic militia from Lacateca & San Antonio who are mounted and guarded by 95 armed men

We have had considerable skirmishing in our lines since my arrival which has been occasioned in part by the recruits from different parts of the country who are coming almost daily, the Camp is only kept together by the patriotism of the men, and the encouraging exertions of the Officers, but this will shortly fail unless some prompt decision & Efficient measures are taken by the Convention: at this time almost Every thing depends upon the Convention, the Town and Garrison is strongly fortified, as such Strangers that you can imagine, and they are hourly Engaged in fortifying & strengthening the place, We can do nothing without Cannon. Call for the pieces we have here are too small, the Enemy will not be within reach of them possibly, but for them we have but few balls, which we are now trying to remedy by collecting all the copper & bells about the old Mission and casting it into balls for the pieces we have here,

For Gods Sake have the Battering pieces from

with ball &c. Tent cloths and other things are in great requisition, and it is the only thing that will keep this force together is all important to the success of Texas.—

Doctor Grant & Cavalcade arrived here last night from Matamoras with dispatches and Col Gonzales are on their way to San Felipe, Col. Gonzales has tendered his services to Gen. Austin, Whether he of accepted service, from the information received of the Gentlemen above mentioned, 40 of the U.S. Volunteers will be in to day— Capt. Hamrick returned last night from an Expedition in search of the convoy, and went out as far as San Miguel but without being able to make any discovery, Col. Bullis are is near and on the same business with from 130 to 150 men, Capt. Travis took 300 head of horses and six prisoners, the horses are all fit for use, and have been sent across the Guadalupe— Treat Prisoners with civility and attention, it is due from the people of Texas to them and I hope they will not be punished Hanging in this section,

Let us know what you are doing in this connection by Every opportunity

My respects to all
Your friend
F. W. Johnson

Camp at the mills, Station near Bexar
Nov 11th. 1835

Sir

Having returned late last night with the detachment under my command from an expedition to the waters of the Rio Frio, and being required by your Excellency to make a report of my proceedings during my absence, I have the honor to State, That on the evening of the 4th instant I left the camp at Head Quarters as a volunteer under command of Captain Briscoe who had been dispatched on a Scouting Expedition to the Westward of San Antonio, on the third day after Captain B. set out, he concluded to return to camp from the Lorado crossing of the Medina, Feeling satisfied that no good may yet be done to the service by a detachment going further into the country, on the Leonard, I proposed to take command of a small detachment of 8 men, who volunteered to go with me upon such an expedition, I accordingly set out on Sunday the 8th instant and encamped at Salinas' Ranch on the Cibolo creek, on the first night, on the next day I took up the line of

march towards Lavaca, and after having traveled about five miles, I discovered the trail of the Public Cavallada, which had been sent off from Bexar about 8 days before, having journeyed the road for several miles along the Lavaca road, we came to where the party with the Cavallada had encamped about 2 days before, after which the trail became much fresher and we pursued with renewed confidence of success, at a quick pace, until we arrived at the Macho, about 50 miles from San Antonio, where the Soldiers with the horses had evidently encamped the night before, I then made the best disposition I could of the small force I had, to attack them whenever I should find them, and pursued them with great caution until after night, when having informed by my guides that we were within two or three Miles of San Miguel creek at which they must have encamped with the Cavallada as there was no other water on the road within five Leagues, and thinking it not prudent to attack them in the night (as I understood they were Dancing) and we would thereby loose the advantage of our superior numbers, and fearing that the Cavallada might Stampede & be lost I encamped for the night without water and without shelter from the cold or rain which was falling upon us, on the morning of the 10th at day break, I marched to attack the Enemy with all speed, I found them encamped in every advantageous position amidst some oaks on the west Bank of the San Miguel about 30 miles from San Antonio and seeing two of their men out collecting the horses, I ordered my men to charge in their camp on horseback with a view to divide them as I supposed their force to be superior to ours, I accordingly rode up to their Encampment at the head of my men at a full gallop, took them completely by surprise, and they surrendered without the loss of a gun, two of them Escaped me took five prisoners, six muskets, two Swords & 300 head of Gentle Spanish horses in Herding ten mules, having dispatched a Courier to advise you of the Capture I had the horses &c collected immediately and started with them and the prisoners to a point on the San Antonio river about 35 miles Below Bexar - where I arrived safely with them on the 4th day after I left the San Miguel. From there agreeably to your Superior orders I sent the Cavallada under the convoy of six faithful men, to Gonzales, where they will probably to morrow, I have nothing further to add, than that during the days of our dreary Service all my men have had to mount guard every night and to be on fatiguing duty during the day without any other food than meat without Salt, and the most of them have even dismounted themselves with a heroism & firmness worthy of the great Cause of Liberty in which they are engaged & the Satisfaction they enjoy of having rendered some Service to this country, more than compensated them for all the privations they have undergone in a bleak wi[illegible]

17

Head Quarters about 1 mile
Nov 13th 1835 3 o'clk P.M.

S. F. Austin Since writing my communication of this date of
I am informed that I received three of the Communication informing
Gen. with the assent of the provisional Government organization
I of your executive authority and council & of my
appointment to join and to the United States as a
Representative, & requiring my personal services
at San Felipe without delay, this I have just rec'd,
this satisfies, I can only say that I am ready at all
times & place I have in any station where it is consid-
ered I can be useful, I am sure you will be convinced
as to keep this army together, I landed I came out,
I suppose cannot at this time when I can be in San-
Felipe, but will give you the Earliest public informa
tion on this subject.

God Liberty & Federation
S. F. Austin

Head Army of Texas

Nov 13th

Most Excellent Sir

I have received
S. F. Austin
the official note of your Excellency dated on yesterday on
Gen. Austin the 12th instant, and I give to your Excellency my
most cordial congratulations in case you have received from
the people on which you can find the necessities of Liberty,
the people of Texas have declared in favor of
Federalism and their constitutional rights, the people ought
to regard their declaration as permanent their position,
I am informed of their determination, this country
is ready to defend the cause by force, since the
dangers of invasion to encourage,
the people have always declared to defend the
Federal, and the people will be ready to defend the
Federal, but the first time a declaration of independence, be it said
in the year this will be made in favor of liberty
I wish to have you by your orders in my
power and I am in which I am to be ready
Gen Liberty & Federation
Sam Houston
To His Excellency the Governor Gen. Sam Houston
Governor of the State of Coahuila & Texas

10.

Head Quarters above Bejar
Nov 18th 1835

To the Provisional Government of Texas

Same
to
Gov.

I have received an official letter from Genl Cos informing me of his escape with from Gen. Cos
from prison, arrived in Texas, and last exhibited the cruel with from Captain Linnitt, the Alcalde of Goliad and many others confederates of Linnitt and I have ordered him to deliver the command of fort Goliad to Captain George M Collinsworth
Your Excellency recommend Gen. Cos and Col. Garcias to the attention of the Executive Government, I have invited the latter to this camp with his men, if he was here I have no doubt he could draw over two companies at least of the Cavalry now in Bejar, as he once commanded them. It was his intention to have come here from Goliad but was so confounded and discouraged by the reception he met with from Captain Linnitt that he became discouraged and concluded to haul it, as I am informed at James Kerr's in Labaca must be heard from me, I have sent an express to him at that place, inviting him to this Camp, Should he have gone to San Felipe. I request that you will invite him to join this army

I Respectfully
S. F. Austin

Fort Goliad Nov 23d 1835.

To the President of the Convention
and Members of the delegates of the People of Texas

Sir

In pursuance of a resolution of
Of Genl. a resolution of the citizen Volunteers, encamping the company now
in possession of this Fort and Town, I have the Honor to transmit for
your Satisfaction and for that of the immediate delegates of the
People copies of two papers, One, that of a letter from S. F. Austin
Esqr. in Chief of the Army to Captain P. Linnitt. The other that of
a preamble and resolutions to which the former gave rise and
Some occasion, I seek to owe apology and embrace the Sentiments of the Company in regard to that part of the Express of the
General, immediately and materially effecting them.

Accept, Sir, for your self individually, and for the
Gentlemen and which you have the honor to preside, the testimonies of the esteem in testimony of the high consideration
the Company, of theirs & of yours

very obedt. & humble Servt.
Jno Forgason
Secretary.

Head Quarters above Bejar
Nov. 18th 1835.

To Capt P Linnitt

On receipt of this you will deliver to Capt. Geo. M Collinsworth the command of that fort & town, I regret to say that I am compelled to adopt this measure owing to complaints made by Gov. Viesca, and also by the citizens & of that place and other causes, these complaints show in substance that great lawlessness has been used towards the inhabitants of Goliad. This conduct is the reverse of what I expected, and had ordered, and is well calculated to injure the cause we are engaged in.

Col. Morales did not come here, as I am informed owing to the reception Gov. Viesca and he met with at Goliad, this office would have been very useful here for there is but little doubt but he could have drawn nearly all the cavalry out of Bejar

Your Obt
S. F. Austin

To Stephen Austin

Commander in Chief of the army of the People of Texas.

The soldiers composing that portion of the army now in possession of the fort & town of Goliad, have seen with surprise the order of your Excellency of the 18th instant, addressed to their Captain, P Linnitt" to deliver to the command of Captain Geo. M Collinsworth this fort and town, as the complaints which your Excellency informs Captain Linnitt have compelled you to adopt this measure, neither specified nor yet regarded as involving them either individually or collectively as private citizens or patriot soldiers, they forbear to notice the sources whence they came, so far even as to honor them with a cursorial quotation but with the effect which the order is calculated to have on them & with the principles which its literal execution would involve, they have that to do, from which no consolidations, no fears, no hopes, nor either date, or bad them,

The effect would be to place them under the command of one whom they have not elected to command them, and to take from them one whom they have elected, to transfer their like lawful attachments from one continent to another allowing them even the freedom of petition as to this transfer, it is absurd right to mean to deprive of each man and woman through the usurpation of authority, to such a sole and subordinate, we have as yet, seen given and assent if ever we are to be informed that any implied assent of theirs made by us have been so construed by the acts, or words

resolutions of our convention, we cannot thus far recognize any such right as being deposited in the hands of your Excellency.
The principles involved in the practical Extinction and application of the order, embrace the right to use every engine of power necessary to enslave or liberate, to establish and protect, or to batter down the liberties of a nation, But as the power to do wrong always includes the means of doing good, and as sometimes Edicts dictated by Genius in the cause of human improvement, it would be praising unimproved, and unintended cause, to withhold from our General a frank and full Expression of our confidence, in the purity of his intentions, and in the patriotism of his military services. But the power claimed to be Exercised in the present instance, is no less than that of annihilating, and of creating, at the fiat of a man, of destroying and of creating, of overthrowing and of building up, it is denying to men Embarked in the same cause as that in which a small portion of your countrymen have made your Excellency a provisional leader, the privilege of associating themselves together under the immediate commands of an officer of their own choice, and it involves the anti Republican and revolting doctrine of subjecting them to the unwelcome and unwise, nay, the anti-patriotic and despotic commands of one, opposed to the very cause in which they may have periled their lives, their property, their liberty & country— And If we understand the great question now before the tribunal bar of Texas in the field, and in the Cabinet, in the head & in the heart, of every club, of every young explorer of its brightening fortunes, it is against these principles and principles like these that gathering armies are rallying, and embodying, to engrave with the point of the Sword, their deep, their Eternal hatreds.
The practical developement of these, and principles like these constitutes the very essence of the threatening wrongs which we have taken the field to redress: the very soul of the System against the Extension of which we have again and again protested. Their practice involves every act which aggravating man can suffer, or tyranny inflict; and tamely to submit to their authority, would be, tamely to submit to the authority of the usurper. If against this that we took the field: against this that we have fought; and if it is against this and the imposition of degradation like this, that we are ready to fight again,
If your Excellency will Excuse the presumption, your countrymen, now in the fort, and town of Goliad, desire to Speak in Common with their fellow citizens in the Walks of life more quiet even than the moral conflicts of a camp the privilege of weighing and of Estimating too, the importance and the mighty magnitude of the cause for which this country now contending It is not for men in opposition to principle, nor contempt of principle, It is not for the patriotic Emancipa

of a people intellectually enthralled. It is not for the perpetuation of a policy nor yet a System of Policy, aimed at the depopulation of their Country, and the annihilation of its moral Energies. In Short it is not for names, but things, not for the Shadow but the Substance, for which they are contending, they claim to the high Privilege of discriminating, and discriminating Closely, between enthralment, and emancipation, between a depopulating and a propulating and a Populating policy between men, and measures, between the Substance, and that which follows and depends upon it.

These are not the Sentiments of a pensioned Mercinary Soldiery, fitted to the purposes of a dictator and a tyrant. They are those of freemen, and of American freemen, they may not suit many others, but they suit us, and they are and property, and to embrace all in a few words, it is for this and property like this, that they have drawn the Sword, and thrown away the Scabbard.

But to return to the exciting cause and unsought occasion of this Address, Gen. Cos Excellency's letter was read to us at the instant of its reception and although it is not signed in his official capacity, its contents involve the Exercise of official faculties, of the highest order, the "S. F. Austin" whose name closes the Laconic order, has been known to us as the Commander of the Army of which we were proud to consider ourselves apart: he has been so recognized by us and as we have received no official, or other intelligence of his having been superseded, or of his resignation, who Still Know and recognize him as our General. On hearing the letter read, our ground was instantly taken. No time was allowed for management or the insidious approaches of intrigue, Gen. Volunteers appointed a committee, composed of J. W. Baylor, Benjamin Noble, John P. Borden Benjamin T. White & Sanford McFarland to prepare a preamble and resolutions Expressive of these Sentiments, and were instructed to report the same, for these adoptions both have been read and both adopted by the Regiment hereto,

Resolved, that we entered the service of our country, as citizen Volunteers, that as such we claim and can never surrender, but with life, the right to elect, and elect freely our immediate commander.

Resolved, that in conformity with this principle, and in pursuance of this determination, we have elected and that we recognize as our present Captain, Citizen Philip Dimmitt that we have every confidence in his capacity, fairness, fine spirited and unexceptionable devotion to the great cause in which all are united dear and near, both as citizens and citizen Soldiers

is now in order,

Resolved, That we regard the order of the 18th instant for the delivery of the immediate Command over us, to another, as an unmilitary, precipitate, ill-advised, ill timed and arbitrary act.

Resolved, that to the Citizen named in the order as the Successor of Captain Smith, we have no personal objections - and this on account of his own confidence both as an officer and as a man - we know him, we esteem, we highly respect, and we love him, He was our first elected Commander of our Company - but he withdrew from us was elected to the Post of Majority, and left us without a Commander, We Elected another to fill his place, and it has been ably filled.

Resolved, that it is not our province to prejudge phase charges and Specifications against any officer, much less it is our place or this the occasion to anticipate the preference of any against the man, and the Officer of our confidence, When they are made known it will be competent for all concerned to pass upon them with calmness and decission; and for the interested party to discharge and fearlessly discharge, as he thus far has done since our association with him, his duty to himself his company and this country -

Resolved, that whilst we adhere and maintain the right of freely Electing our own Company officers so long as we remain in the Service under existing circumstances, or rather during the want of all regulations; we freely concede to the Commander in Chief, that of so applying and so disposing of us as in his opinion the speedy and advancement of the common cause of Texas may require,

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be forwarded by Volunteer Sta Ingram to each of the Printing offices in Texas for publication; and that he forward also to the President of the convention a copy of the same; including also every instance a copy of the letter of the Commander in Chief of the 18th inst, to Capt P. Smith.

Resolved, that the Secretary of this Company be instructed to furnish Captain Philip Smith with two copies of this paper and that he be requested to hand one of them to the Commander in Chief's Head Quarters before 12 o'clock,

Signed by the Secretary by the unanimous order of the Company,

Executive Department,
of Texas.

Gov. Smith To the Hond. the President and members of the Legislative Council
Do Gentlemen,
Gen. Council

Our newly formed government, organized by the people, Sovereign, of Texas, from stern necessity; & deem the only hope and safeguard to Texian liberty, and the last prop to Republican principles within the Territories of the Mexican nation. that a deep laid and preconcerted plan is on foot to overthrow our newly framed government, must be obvious to you all, and unless prompt measures and due diligence be used, our plans will be subverted and give place to the same Odious and Corrupt Government, of intrigue, bribery and Speculation which has ever been the bane of Texas. That time has been disappointments, chagrin and mortification to a great degree, will be readily conceded; as such the fortorn hope of the routine of Speculation, is now and will be resorted to, as these Managers (the greatest curse of which any land can complain) dreads nothing so much as honest and fair investigation, every thing calculated to throw off that investigation will be resorted to. their only hope is Anarchy intrigue and confusion, they do not seek the true interest of the country but would Sacrifice all, even commit parricide to throw a vail over their own evil deeds, and promote their own unparalleled Speculations, I would not be thus plain and positive but consider it a duty which I owe to myself and to you as the representatives of the people to Represent nothing but what might have a tendency to guard and protect their rights, a ten years Experience has taught me to fathom the duplicity & devious windings of unprincipled men, and it is obvious to me that deep laid plans have been on foot to overthrow what the people have done, we are Solemnly bound to sustain it, ~~with~~, Let us then use any means in our power to redeem our pledges,

I would suggest to you Hond Body the propriety of forming and passing a bill making it treason in any person or persons, assailing the Existing authorities, either by waging war making treats or in any wise menacing the authorities, some rigid course should be pursued, for Texas now and that trouble are a head

With respect and consideration
Your Obt Servt.
Henry Smith
Governor

(Nov 25 1835.

Head Quarters before Bejar
Nov 18 1835 12 O. clock.

To the President of the Genl Council of Texas.

J. Austin
To Matamoras

In my last I communicated the taking of a Calvada of 300 horses by a detachment under the command of Captain Travis I now enclose his detailed report and beg leave to recommend him and his Corps & the men under his Command.

On the 9th inst I received information which was entitled to attention, that a reinforcement was on the road from Larado to Goin Genl. Cos, I immediately ordered Captain Fannin to take Command of 15 men from the Encampment at the Mission Concepticon, which men to have been joined by an equal number from the Encampment above Bejar and to proceed on the Larado road to intercept the reported reinforcements, Captain Fannin Marched promptly but was not joined by the party from the upper camps he however proceeded on the Larado road as far as Rio Frio, he returned last night,

I enclose this official report, this Officer has been very efficient and I recommend him as one of the Officers of the regular army when it is organized, On the 14th I received information that Col. Ugartechea left Bejar the night before for Lorado, supposed for the purpose of Escorting the Expected reinforcements I immediately dispatched Col Benton with 150 men in pursuit of him, I have since learned that Ugartechea had a man for a pilot who has lived with the Comanches and that he will make a great circle by the hills on the heads of the Medina the prospect of Bentons meeting him is therefore doubtful, according to the last accounts, reinforcements have not yet left Larado, the enemy are shut up in the walls and fortifications of Bejar Parties of our volunteers go around the town daily and within Cannon Shot, we have picked up about twenty of them, six pound Shot, I have heretofore on various occasions submitted to a council of Officers the storming of the fortifications, and I am now decidedly in favour of that measure so soon as the New Orleans Greys get up from Gulliad and Burleson's detachment returns,

The works are stronger than they were, but are greatly extended and consequently the defending force is very much scattered, the troops inside are also very much discouraged and begin to consider the contest as hopeless, cut off as they are from resources, with a wilderness in the rear, which has been burnt nearly as it the way to the Rio Grande, on all the roads, Bejar must fall in a short time for want of resources without help on our part, and I think it could be stormed successfully though at a very considerable risk of bloodshed, may be

[illegible] from a very severe dysentary since the [illegible] I have employed within the last four days [illegible] and have all that could have been [illegible] and without materials and without [illegible] is purely voluntary. It deserves [illegible] perseverance, I have very [illegible] will Enclose confirm

Yours respectfully
S. F. Austin

[illegible] opened letter [illegible] Translation [illegible] together with the

[illegible] General S. F. Austin

[illegible] Enclosed [illegible]

[illegible] Commander

[illegible]

In Camp 4 Oclk PM Nov 18. 1835.

Dear General

In so writing this Enclosed I finds I've espress written Short for an hour, and I avail myself to, add a few more words, you ask my opinion with regard to falling back on Goliad and Gonzales, With the present force and under the present discipline and most of the present officers, and the panic already imbibed, touching a Storm &c. I must admit it to be the safest cause— I can truly with to say so; as I have done, more to prevent a retrograde step than any one in the army— but I should be doing my own Sense and Judgement & our common Country and Cause, manifest injustice to withhold my decided convictions on this movement, I must also say that I am fully satisfied that with 200 men, well chosen and properly drilled so as to rely upon each other that the place can be taken by storm and not much loss to the party,

I agree with you, if the Cannon — waited for it is unsafe to stay here and I am fully convinced that before we can reach Guadeloupe, Ops. will be on his way to the interior, we have merely surrounded all the Com &c. now here and I would suggest the total distruction of the remainder, before leaving, since in this way the Enemy will be as badly whipped as we can hope to do by arms.

Col. Mcgarticken is now out towards the Lorado with 200 men to escort in a convoy and 300 convicts who are tied, I coming on, If we can take him the place will forth with Surrender, Packs are now ant for that Purpose, and I hope some good will be done, Bring on Col. Gonzales who may do much good here in disaffecting the Convoy,

I do urge the regular army organization, and If I can be brought in, and allow me to bring in some U.S. officers, graduates of West Point I can form as good a force for the number as ever were mustered, a Yager Rifle Musket and brace of pistols, should be their Arms, use this as you may see fit. Let me hear from you Love, and Commands me as you May deem best,

Liberty & Texas our Wives & Sweet hearts

Your Obt Servt

W. B. Travis

Camp near Bejar
Head Quarters Federal army 18 Nov. 183

Genl Stephen F Austin

Dear Sir

I have just returned from an Expedition as far west as Rio Frio made in pursuance with your orders of the 9th instant

I have to report that I proceeded on that day with

x 4

...ion of my own company & volunteers, via Col. Burleson's camp
...ving your orders for twenty men were declined on promise
...made of marching forward early next day (16th) to join me 30 miles
beyond the River Medina

On the night of the 9th I encamped my command in order to cover the Rio Grande & Laredo Roads, giving the command of the party for the former to my first Lieut, John Clark with orders to proceed to Medina, and when joined by Col Burleson's party, to proceed west to the several watering places as far as 30 miles keeping out the necessary advance & flank guards, in order to ascertain from the trails if the Expected convoy or reinforcements had passed, and if any discovery should be made, communicate forthwith with me, and if necessary the main army.

The duty was performed and no discovery made, when I marched to the Medina and took measures to have guarded the main and almost only crossing on that River whilst Lt Clark performed the same duty above, Being again disappointed, and hearing from Captain Travis, I encamped on to the Atascosa, and about 13 miles west of Salina Rancho, came across a trail which we followed up until near night, when we became satisfied that it was that of Capt Travis with his horses, from here we again struck off for the Rio Frio keeping out such parties as to cover most of the country which is passable, until we arrived at San Miguel where the main body encamped, most of the horses being tired down and a picket guard of six men ordered forward to Rio Frio

At this point I expected to be joined by the party from Col Burleson's Camp as well as that of Lt Clarks, but the last were compelled to return to camp their horse being worn down from hard service and from the circumstance of my party being so far in advance whilst the former entirely refused to obey the order to proceed in the duty assigned.

Thus I was situated, when Yoni of the 14th by Mr Frio was sent, and by him was informed of Lt Clarks return when I forthwith took up the line of march for head Quarters not neglecting the object of this Expedition, but with no better success than before, At Salina Rancho I was informed that Col Mgonticha had left Bejar on the night of the 14th with 200 and proceeded on the upper route to escort in a convoy & 300 convicts dispersed to the out Stations being confined at Medina, I felt desirous to march to camp, to ascertain more of it than a party with fresh horses might be dispatched after him and watch his motions, as if to be joined, Seems this only Chief hunting Enemy of

It may be proper how for me to inform you that I purchased & gave receipt to from Dr Jose Maria Salmon, Beef & Pork to the amount of thirty dollars, which was chefully accepted by him with many apperances of personal regard for yourself, and good wishes to the Cause, and offers of such services as he could consistently with his situation and private and domestic affairs expected to render.
He has promised to watch and make such circumstantial communications as the Service requires and that may be come at thro' his friend in Bejar only discovery to the visit

On conclusion allow me to call your gentle manly attention to the interception and capture of the party of Col. Ugartichia

With Sentiments of the highest consideration
I am as ever, Your obt Servt
W. Hamilton Jr

Sundry Petitions and Letters Submitted to the General Council.

Hond Genl. Council of Texas.

The undersigned approaching your Hon. Body with great respect, begs leave to represent that altho' he has for some time been a silent Spectator of Events, he has felt the deepest solicitude for the safety of our country and the result of the warlike contest in which she has engaged. He was opposed to the hostile measures which were adopted until the attack was made upon the town of Gonzales by the Mexican Troops, but from that moment he viewed her cause as just and holy, and was debarred from engaging actively in her Service by circumstances with which he forbears to occupy the attention of Your Hon. Body.

But at the present dangerous crisis of our affairs he believes that he would be highly censurable if he should remain longer inactive.

Considering the disorganized situation of Texas at the commencement of the struggle, she has performed wonders and fortune and victory have smiled upon her first efforts in driving from her soil the myrmidons of despotism

The brilliant achievements of her brave volunteer army before the walls of San Antonio, and the fall of that important post will no doubt produce signal results and be attended with most important consequences. But so far from considering that Event as the termination of our difficulties, your memorialist views it the Commencement of a bloody war and fears

knowledge of the character of the people and the principles of the party with which we have to contend. and the last information he has received, he feels convinced that we shall see in[illegible] our borders early in the Spring a numerous and invading Army, whose object will be to crush at a single Blow the Energies of Texas and to Extinguish that last Spark of Liberty which is cherished by her sons, and which the present Patriotic efforts of the Extinguished Mexican Republic, Provoked cannot Extinguish, if it should not be smothered at once by a mighty Effort,

The Provisional Government has foreseen the approaching Storm, and has made many wise and well directed preparations to meet it. Agents have been appointed to raise recruits, our Army has been organized, the Separatists of our fellow Countrymen of the North have been appealed to and volunteers have been called to aid in the sacred Cause of Liberty. It would seem to your Petitioner that what now remains to be done, is that Every individual of the Community, sustain firmly, the measures of their representatives and Constituted, with all his Energies according to his particular means and abilities to carry them into prompt and vigorous effect.

Moved by these Considerations, and desirous of lending his most active Cooperation and support to the great Cause in which Texas is engaged, Your Memorialist has formed the project of raising a division of Volunteers in the North to be placed at the disposition of the Government of Texas under his command and to be distinguished by the appellation of "the Army of Texas for the protection of the Liberties of Texas."

Your Petitioner proposes to organize, arm & equip this division according to the most approved principles of the Theory of War applied to the peculiar Nature of the Country in which it will be necessary for it to operate, and the enemy with whom it will have to contend. Accordingly he proposes to form it of three Battalions of heavily armed infantry one of Riflemen, one of Cavalry, and one of flying, or horse Artillery.

The battalions of Infantry Riflemen and Cavalry will each be composed of four Companies of twenty One men, including the Company officers for each Battalion, there will be one Colonel, one Major, a one Adjutant One Quartermaster, one Surgeon, one Commissary, one Paymaster, one Serjeant Major, and one Drum Major: and for Each Company, one Captain and four Lieutenants.

The Battalion of artillery will be also be composed of four Companies of thirty seven men Company officers included and there will be the same number of field officers as for the other Battalions, for Each Company there will be but two Lieutenants

Your Memorialist proposes to purchase six pieces of of field Artillery, four Six Pounders, and two Twelves, all to be mounted for the field with their Caissons and other appendages complete.

Having raised and organized the division your petitioner will proceed to appoint his Staff, which will be composed of an adjutant General, an inspector General, One Quarter Master General, One Comissary General, one Paymaster General, and two Aids, in all other respects your petitioner and the divisions, will be governed by the regulations already adopted by the Government of Texas, Thus the Army of Texas will be composed of one thousand one hundred and forty four men, officers included, and from its peculiar organization it will be able under good discipline to encounter successfully with a force greatly its Superiors in number,

It follows from the nature of the propositions of your petitioner that the officers will be engaged or appointed by himself, and consequently he deems it necessary that he should be furnished by the provisional Government with the requisite number of blank Commissions,

Your petitioner is fully aware of the magnitude and difficulty of this undertaking, and it is with great diffidence he makes the proposition, He is conscious that he has not hitherto figured before his fellow citizens of Texas as a Military Man, and he has never endeavored to acquire the reputation of being one, but having spent many of his best days in the acquisition of a Knowledge of the various branches of tactics with a view of Entering whenever that career, could become useefully impressed with the importance of the measure he proposes for the Safety and defence of our Country, he is induced to make this present application,

Much has been done by Your Hon. Body, but no human procedure could prevent the possibility that some of the measures which have been adopted might fail to produce the results which were anticipated, the Enemy may again be upon us and find us unprepared, and we may again see our fellow-citizens compelled to throw themselves before him in an undisciplined and disorganized mass to repel him,

We may again see this unparalleled individual valor and Constancy triumph over him but all will agree that Every step should

within the limits of, to forbidity to provide against such a state of things; and Your Petitioner is, persuaded that the Enterprise in which he proposes to engage will contribute greatly to their important end, if any of the measures already adopted by the Provisional Government should fail the contemplated division may supply the deficiency, and if any disaster should befal our troops in their first Engagements the Knowledge that an army was being raised for their aid and support would prevent that Panic Spirit from drooping, inspire into their minds an encouraging confidence, and render them immediately at the same time that it would awe the Enemy into respect.

In order that project into effect to raise, arm, equip & transport the contemplated division to Texas, Your Petitioner Proposes to furnish ten thousand dollars of his own private means which he believes he can raise in the United States and to obtain the balance which may be necessary from his friends and others devoted to the cause of Liberty.

In consideration of all which Your Petitioner earnestly solicits the approbation and sanction of the Provisional Government in order that he may proceed without delay to carry his proposition into execution Your memorialist avails himself of this opportunity to tender to Your Hon. Body the high respect and consideration of Your obedient Servant.

New Orleans January 1. 1836

J. J. Hutchinson & Brothers

To the Hon. the President and Council of the Provisional Government of Texas.

The Petitioner, Sterling C Robertson respectfully Council. States that he is the agent of the Nashville Colonization Company in Texas, and Empresario or Contractor in that behalf for the Settlement of 800 families, for efforts that he has had great labour and difficulty in securing his rights, by reason of opposition on the part of designing men, that his colony is upon the upper Brazos country greatly exposed to Savage depredations, such must be soon severely threatened by the recent insurrections, unless strengthened by new immediate reinforcements. Having been desirous of this, and anxious to fulfil his contract with the then Existing government as well as for his own advantage, as for that of Texas, your Petitioner last July opened to his native State Tennessee, for encouraging emigrants to Texas. All good Farmers & Artificers in the Country, except some Coal dig[illegible]

he had no Expectation would either involve the country in war, or operate a change in Government, and that in good faith your Petitioner induced Several hundred settlers, families and Single persons to agree to come to Texas as Colonists of the Nashville Company, with promises of Certain and present Security of title to the quantity of Land allotted to each settler by the Colonization laws of 1824.

Confiding in your Petitioners integrity & honor which pledged upon the best probable grounds, and in Sincerity many families have been broken up & sold their estates in Tennessee, came at a Sacrifice, and made many difficulties common to a long Journey at this Season of the year, have followed him to Texas, where they are now anxiously waiting under all the disadvantages of Poor Indians & innumerable privations, the fulfilment of the promises under which they have Emigrated. Others are on the way and others preparing to come, while your Petitioner was Entirely ignorant of any obstacles having arisen to prevent the full Execution of his pledges until his arrival in Texas, under these Circumstances involving Such disastrous consequences to Settlers and a forfeiture of his own honor & plighted faith to them, if the 14th Section of the organic Law is held in Strict force. Your Petitioner respectfully asks this Council to take this case into consideration and to afford him and his Colonists Some protection & relief as ever directs a just & prudent Government in the Exercise of Legal and equitable trusts reposed in them. by the people

Dec 18th 1835. Sterling C. Robertson

On the 15th day of April 1825. Robert Leftwich obtained a grant for the Colony under Edward the Nashville Company, and afterwards of the 24. day of October 1827 it was conceded to the Nashville Company & Jose M Leagues associated Empresario, and the law of the 6th of April prevented them from complying with their Contract. that afterwards on the 22 day of May 1834 the Government reinstated said Company and prolonged their Contract for four years, that Contracted had been partly complied with and the Empresario Sterling Robertson has just returned from Tennessee with a number of families who are waiting for their titles, that the Emigration to the Colony is very rapid, and unless those Colonists obtain their titles they will abandon the country, that unless the land office is permitted to run the country must be abandoned— That the Scattering Settlements com

In Texas the Cherokees, Kansas settlements have been abandoned and others must be made if the settlement is permitted to go on.

50 Lancers left Robertson arrived 15.18
15 with Robertson on the 6th December.
14 with Col. Hayes with 4 Ths.
18 who have sent their agent from Nacogdoches to select their lands and buy provisions.
6 at the Navasota.
8 Single men at the Navasota.
16 with wagons who by this time are in the Colony
2 Brown & daughter
11 with whom Robertson has commenced, and contracted with, then are numbers of other families on the road with whom Robertson has commenced & contracted with which will complete his contract before the first day of may next.

To the Hon the President and Council of Texas

We the subscribers, volunteers in the service of Texas, now on our way to San Antonio respectfully represent that we have been informed by Messrs Hope, and Mr Badgett, Runaway to Judge Chambers on march of Fifth and sixty Inst. that there are one hundred and twenty men, volunteers in the Texas Just Cause in which we have embarked, who left Natchitoches on or about the 1. december, that under the impression that the Provisional Government of Texas had provided for the means of forwarding volunteers, they are unprovided for Provisions than Nacogdoches, and cannot come further unless the Govt. council shall be prepared to meet them there this our agent with the means of defraying this Expenses to the Army

2 Lawrence Monroe
1 Wright
Mo Mansfield

Petition. To the Provisional Government of Texas.

The undersigned Petitioners would respectfully represent to you that the Sea coast of Texas is in a totally defenceless and unprotected State, and the Commerce of the Country as well as the lives and property of the people upon the Sea coast is at the mercy of the Enemy.

To remedy this evil we would suggest to you the Expediency of building at the east end of Jubilee Island. On the mouth of the Bayou and at the entrance of Matagorda Bay of sufficient extent to protect the Fleet with adequate Garrisons, also to provide a Naval force able to Capture the Enemies Cruizers that may be off the Coast.

To provide means to accomplish these Ends we would recommend the establishment of Ports of Entry and Delivery, the appointment of Custom Houses & officers and that duties to the amount of twenty per cent be collected upon all articles imported into the country with the Exception of Arms and ammunition, Bagging and Bale rope and the furniture and Effects of Emigrant families - not intended for sale.

James F Perry
A E Westall
Sterling McNeel.

That Bagging and Bale Rope should not be exacted, but that provisions of all Kinds should be exempt from duties and that Spirits of all Kinds should be Specific duty.

Edward Andrews.
Hogan and Bro.
A. Wells & Co.
Wm Trow Jr.
Theodore Barnett
A. Brigham
James Turnbull
John Linsmore.

The objects herein mentioned are doubtless all important but it seems to me that ten per cent on all articles imported which shall not be Exempted from duty, will be full and ample to answer the proposed objects.

Robert Eden Handy

To the General Council of Brazos.

Gentlemen, I am entirely aware that my remarks, intrusive as they may be, cannot offer you this information on the importance and practability of immediately forming the present Volunteer army. Before I leave

I am not the particular authorized representative of our fellow Citizens now composing that army, but I consider myself authorized to represent them in this

manner when I consider that I may be desirable in forwarding to them assistance in this present very "critical" circumstances

The Letter I had the Honor to address to your Body on yesterday morning was called forth by the deep conviction that our friends were in danger and that relief ought to be Extended to them immediately I think you ought if Possible to forward that relief without one moments delay for the loss of one week may result in the loss of our army

The appointment of Captain Fannin if he was present would undoubtedly be a good one, but inasmuch as he is not here, and will not for a week, at least I cannot but consider it unfortunate unless others are associated

If Gentlemen You would appoint Agents who would go to work to day, volunteers might be on the way in three days and 8 or ten days gained to our suffering army Before Bejar,

My individual acquaintance in the Brazos Country enables me probably to be better acquainted with the individuals who can forward this desireable object than most of the members of your body, I would suggest that inasmuch as Captain Fannin is not present that until his arrival that Horatio Chisholm for Cotis Settlement John Loth for Washington Philip Coe for New Years Creek Samuel Peters for Mill Creek John Reed for San Filipe Lester & Jesse Burkhart for Colorado & Thompson for Navidad for Mainfas Neighborhood, Newdall Jones for Fort Settlement, James Fenter for Lake creek for Harrisburgh, Warren D.C. Hall for Columbia, J.W. Byrom for Brazoria for Caney and for Matagorda be appointed to Enroll volunteers and forward them on as Soon as Possible

Nothing Gentlemen but the conviction that our army is in danger could have induced me to intrude myself on Your notice and you will not regard it as impertinent from any other Motive than an anxious desire to save the army

Velasco 1836

Respectfully

J. Wood Baker

W.B. Travis
to
Govr. & Council

San Filipe Dec 3, 1835

To his Excellency the Governor, and Genl Council of Texas

Having been requested by an Hon member of the Council to give my views on the organization of an army for the defence of Texas, during the present war I proceed to do so with great diffidence as my Military Experience is so limited in the outset I unhesitatingly say that I approve cheerfully the views and reasons on the subject of the General Army Expressed in the communication of Gn W. Fannin Jr. and I shall therefore confine myself more particularly to the subject of organization of volunteers corps- As considerable time must necessarily elapse before the regular army can be raised and brought into the field duly equiped for Service and considering the Hostile attitude in which our Common country, stands in defence of her rights against the usurpations and Tyranny of a dictatorial army & bigoted Clergy- It seems to me all important that an efficient corps should be immediately raised and provided for by this Government to be ready to take the field at a moments warning. The plan which I would respectfully suggest is this that a law be passed authorizing the Executive to accept of the services of or raise at least a Brigade of volunteers to be composed of two Regiments of from five to Eight hundred men each to be subject while in Service to the orders of a Brigadier General who should be subordinate to the Commander in Chief of the regular army That the field officers of the Volunteer Brigade should be appointed by the Govenor & Council & the company officers Elected by the Companies respectively, that there should be three Battalions of infantry and one of Cavalry, that the Battalions of cavalry should be composed of four companies of 70 rank & file & twelve officers- or three companies of 60 rank and file each and the necessary amount of officers; That the cavalry should be commanded by a Lt. Col, who should be ~~Stiled~~ Subject or obedient to the orders of the Commander in Chief for the time being.

Here allow me to remark that I have been a little surprised that the convention should have overlooked the establishment of a cavalry corps, for I consider that such a Battalion as I have indicated is indispensible to the Service of Texas during the present Struggle. If you wish to get information of the movements of a distant Enemy, it must be done by cavalry if you wish to Escort Express & Ammunition & baggage while on the road, to pursue a defeated & retreating Enemy, cut off by flying parties of the Enemy, Scouts in reconnoitering away by keeping upon the rear, or forming ambuscades, in this front, if you wish to carry the war into the Enemies country, or have been invaded do you wish to take him by surprise or before any a

requiring celerity and promptness all these things must be done by Cavalry- and cavalry alone, in a word all the brilliant military exploits which have ever been performed in time and which we read of in the history of Nations have been accomplished by celerity of movement and promptness of action, you must have well organized cavalry before your enemies will ever move Quickly-

That the arms of the cavalry should be broad swords Pistols and double barreled shot guns or Rifles.

That the infantry should be armed as other infantry in the Service except flanking companies, for which the volunteer infantry would be more effectively armed with rifles or Rifles- that the volunteer Brigade should be mustered for twelve months unless the war should sooner be brought to a close, and should be subject to regular discipline and the rules and articles of War- a mob can do wonders in a sudden burst of Patriotism or of passion but cannot be depended upon as Soldiers for a campaign.

A Storm is impending over us the time that is to try men souls is just to come, the Energies and resources of Texas should be developed and brought into immediate action, It is no small matter to bring an efficient army into the field therefore I hope that the wisdom and patriotism of your Hon. body will be exerted to place the country in a best possible situation for defence against an army of superior numbers as soon as possible.

I have every confidence that the Governor and Council of Texas will meet the expectations of the country

I have the Honor frankly to assure you of the highest consideration and respect

Your obt Servt &c.

Wm Barret Travis

San Felipe de Austin 3rd January 1836

To the Provost Council of Texas.

Wm. J. Johnson to Gen Council

Gentlemen, I beg leave to report to your Hon. Body that I was under authority of and official letter addressed to me by Pres. Gen. Burleson by the committee on military affairs ordered on Expedition against Matamoras of four hundred and Thirty two volunteers of Infantry from the United States by whom I was appointed to the Command, the volunteers left Brazoria on the 30th instant for Labahia and from thence to the destined point.

I was left in Jamison at Brazoria under

command of Lieut Col Neill. His force, I consider, to be barely sufficient to hold the Post and it will require at least 500 additional to proceed to place it in a strong defensive position. I have ordered all the guns from the Town into the Alamo and the fortifications in the Town to be destroyed

Herewith I present you the names of the officers to be commissioned for the Expedition if it be consistent with the views of your Hon. Body, viz:

Captains B.L. Lawrence, 1st Lt. David Thomas, 2d John Sowell. Captains Thomas H. Breece. 1st Lt. Edwd Johnson. 2d Henry Conway. Capt W.H. Burke. 1st Lt P.B. McManning & John Sowell. Captain McGlask 1st Lt G.B. Bannister & John Hall. Captain T. Llewellen 1st & 2d Lts Hunts Commissioned. Captain A.B.T. Wiggington. Blanks Comd 1st & 2d Lts.

The foregoing are the Companies who volunteered for Matamoras in addition to which you will be pleased to forward the Commissions of those heretofore forwarded to the Governor.

In regard to the Expedition I have no hesitation in saying that it is practicable and that not one moment should be lost as the Enemy are concentrating their force at many points in the interior with a view to suppress the Liberals of the interior and also for the purpose of attacking us in Texas. Therefore I submit the foregoing to your consideration and ask your authority for making the Expedition against Matamoras.

I have the Honor to subscribe myself

Your most obedient Servant

P.W. Johnson

N.B. Please issue Commissions to James Grant as Colonel and A.N. Brister as Aguitant.

P.W.J.

Mr Thomas Col Mirabeau B. Lamar tendering his services to the Government of of Texas as a citizen & identifies Permit. Council with its interests to raise a company of volunteers under such provisions as the Government might make for them, Provided a commission be granted him.

This Tender was made this 16th Inst to the undersigned (Mr Lamar being about to leave for the United States had not time to make a written tender of services) who voted him thanks therefor & turned it over to the Permanent Council for action.

Nacogdoches
Committee Nov. 26 1835

To the Hon Council
of Texas, San Felipe de Austin

The committee of vigilance and safety of the Municipality of Nacogdoches would respectfully suggest to the Council of Texas the propriety of revoking a resolution passed by the Council on the 27th day of October 1835, requiring the commissioners granting titles to lands to close their offices and suspend all manner of land business until the convention should act on the matter

The committee deemed it proper that at this time when such a large number of our citizens have gone out in defence of the rights of our country that all surveyors should cause their operations and the issuance of land warrants should remain as they are until these Patriotic volunteers who have so nobly and willingly stepped forward in defence of our sacred rights shall again return and share an equal chance with all that have not had their chance for surveys Consequently all surveyors have been required to cease their operations and the Commissioners have ceased to grant orders of survey. But why should this not be issued to lands surveyed previous to the passage of that act. It cannot act to the prejudice of any portion of the people of Texas while a contrary course will injure the patriotic volunteers in the fields those who have been so deep active in forwarding the Cause of the country at home and the Public finances of the Country. Many of the volunteers of this Municipality left it as a direct injunction on their families and friends remaining behind to take their titles out of the office so soon as they should be completed; that their Children might be subject to none of the unfortunate disappointments so often Experienced in the transactions of the Public affairs of the Country, but have something tangable and in their possession as a reward for their privations and a fulfilment of the promise of the laws of the Country in case their Fathers should never return that their families might now be disposed for an uncertain period of time on the principles of the Government to which they emigrated and the settlement of the Estate and of their friends who they left for such.

This Committee would further state that many of the citizens of this Municipality have actually involved themselves expressly in the cause of the Country, depending upon contracts to reimburse themselves that they actually Expect to close with lands

The titles for which accounts are submitted in this Schedule have been issued in duplicate and for the reasons stated in the foregoing Report of the Board of Commissioners appointed to examine and adjust claims to land in this Municipality, which report this Committee earnestly hope may be approved, as the Citizens of this part of the County have evinced such repugnance at the very idea of the fulfillment of such a resolution that this Committee views it as a circumstance calculated to disturb the Harmony and union of Texas, at a time when nothing but union and concert of action should exist between the County and Republican Enemy to our liberties as well as private rights. The Citizens of this Municipality view the confirmed titles as private property, and do not deem it requisite to leave their rights and the interests of the County that any other persons should be nominated to take Charge of the papers, as much confusion and derangement must ensue and perhaps the loss of valuable documents belonging to the Citizens his private property—

This Committee have Endeavored to ascertain the wishes of the whole Community of the Eastern part of Texas on the Subject of just mentioned, and would suggest the propriety of your authorizing the Commissioners to proceed to finish all land Business previous to the first of November next and to retain their papers in their hands as anticipated by the Law authorizing them to issue titles, this wish of the Inhabitants of this part universally.

Very Respectfully &c &c
Hayden Edwards
Chn. Pro. tem.

W. B. Ray &c 3
Secretary. 3

Copy of a resolution passed by this Committee 17th oct 1838.

Resolved that the Chairman sign the Commissioners not to receive any Surveys made after the 1st of nov. 1835, as a number of individuals have gone to

frontier who have not made selections of their lands, and that they be requested to take all means in their power to carry this resolution into effect and further to receive no returns from those who may leave for the purpose of making Surveys after this date.

Wm B. Reed
Secretary.

Matagorda 12 Decr 1833

To the Hon the Governor and General Council of Texas.

Petitioners. The undersigned citizens of Matagorda and its vicinity, being fully impressed with the importance

Enclosed of the appointment of a suitable person as Collector of duties for this Port, take the liberty of recommending to your notice our fellow citizen Wm Joseph Peticolas as one in every respect qualified to discharge the duties of said Office with credit to himself and benefit to the Country.

Recent circumstances in relation to a wrecked vessel (Schr Hannah Elizabeth) and neglect in the saving of her valuable Cargo requires the attention and investigation of Revenue and impartial officers.

The location for the Port will also contribute much to the security of private property and will prevent to a great extent, that sort of misunderstanding which has been "owned on to the injury and indeed total destruction of individual property, unfortunately exist as now our shores when instead of affording friends and Countrymen protection for their property, all has been sacrificed on the altar of corruption.

We therefore recommend for said appointment of Collector our Fellow citizen Wm Harvey Kendrick believing that he would to some considerable extent put a stop to the aforesaid practices and give General satisfaction to this Community.

And as Your Petitioners, as in duty bound will Ever pray &c.

A. Phillips,
J. M. E. Mullaco
J. P. Heard jr.
Morton Mc Inerney
Perry Fagan & Co.
W. T. Austin
Francis Pettengill.
C. B. Short jr.

San Filipe 9th Janry. 1836

To the Hon. the Members of the Genl. Council of the Provisional Government of Texas.

The undersigned acting agent of the Com
Council-pursuant to Stephen Austin & Samuel Williams for the col-
-onizing of eight hundred families. Respectfully Reports
that from the 15th of April 1831 until within a few months past
no Commissioner was had for the settling in Hopes of the
the families Contracted with and who by the Colonization
laws were entitled to Land, owing to this circumstance
a large number of families have settled in the country
without receiving titles or any certainty of doing so
so long have they waited anxiously expecting that time
would bring about a different state of things within
their Expectations being realized. That Even upon the
Closing the Land offices by the Commissioner, most of
them had disposed, and many were content to sell
their head right at very reduced prices the closing
the Land offices has had the Effect of destroying what
remaining confidence existed and most families
that either they will never receive the benefits of the
laws of Colonization, or that the time is so far distant
that its value is comparatively small, and consequen
-ly a great many are now selling their Claims for from
25 to 2 or 300$ each, That such is the fact I refer you for
Evidence to Every farmer who has the least intercourse with
his neighbours That such is the fact I refer you to Every
married man who is in the least degree engaged in
Speculation, and Gentlemen without intending it have
been but the honest tool generally for families in
the hands of Speculators- The System is injurious to the
Country inasmuch as the largest portion of our
citizens in this Colony have no land to call their own
and no inducement to fight the battles of the country
until they receive their lands agreeably to the Constitution
they are not Citizens and until they are, are not
under the Control of the Government.

The result of our difficulties we must bear
forever, we may be driven back for a time, or, we may be
involved in war for a length of time, and this Emigration
Question may be so great as to render it impracticable to
Carry on the operations of the land offices, and have
good Policy as well as Common justice would say
That Every man should receive his lands as early
as possible. in order to Identify his person a
his fortune with those of Texas.

Circumstances & interests have not only indicated but justified the action of the Land offices but inasmuch as these causes have since the fall of Bexar ceased I cannot but believe that the necessity and good policy for longer keeping them closed has also ceased. That a very large portion of this Colony are anxious to have the Offices opened I confidently assert. and I hope your body will view the necessity of it and act accordingly -

Should the Land offices be re opened, I not only should be pleased, but as the agent of Austin and Williams would request that it might be opened so far as to receive Colonists and that Locations of Large Claims might be prohibited:

In conclusion Gentlemen let me say that the opening of the Land offices would indicate confidence in the people, would identify the interests of hundreds with Texas and would not be doing injustice to any one and with the hope that the matter will be so received by your Hond. Body -

I am Respectfully
Yours &c.
Stephen F. Austin,

To the Hond. President and members of the Legislature
B. B. Goodrich Comm'r.
to
Comm'r

Gentlemen

I am requested by Mr John Leet contractor at Washington to say to you that it is indispensible for him to procure provisions for the troops passing Washington without some immediate pecuniary assistance from your Hond. Body. Corn is scarce and high, and cannot be procured without cash. and as he has been the necessary advances from his own funds to sustain the army as far as much to save anxious that his own funds are exausted, and nothing in the way of provisions can be furnished on the faith of the Country
I am Gentlemen 20th Dec. 1835.

Respectfully
B. B. Goodrich

Velasco Dec 8. 1835

Hon Stephen Pollard

Sir

Petition of the public Mind of the North to any great extraordinary
To the discovered a Scheme in contemplation which appears to be
H. in rapid progression, which if suffered to be indulged in by
the existing authorities of this Country will greatly tend to
impede the so much Cherished Rate of Emigration from the
Southern and Western States. It appears Sir, that the abolition
Society are attempting through their agents to procure large
purchases of lands in Texas for the express purpose of
transmitting the free black population and other members
of Color that cannot remain in the United States, which if
suffered to be carried into effect will virtually tend to flood
the purest and well disposed part of the community by their
repeated acts of wantonness and cruelty. further it will have
a direct effect on those persons holding Slaves within Texas
as they will at all times be using their influence with the Slaves
to absent themselves from their legal owners with a variety of other
acts of wantonness too tedious to mention at this time (?).

Therefore taking into consideration the present and
future Prosperity of the Colonists in Texas as well as
the Purest and well disposed part of the Emigra-
tion that in all Human probability will emigrate to
Texas in order to secure the peace and Tranquility of
the State, we earnestly recommend that you bring
before the Council a bill prohibiting all black
free persons & Negroes from Emigrating to Texas
or residing within its limits undergoing pecuniary chastisement.

Samb. Rogers Chairman
Charles C. Mebb
Joseph P. Pulsifer.

Camp Near Bexar 30. Nov 1835

Stephen Ellen Esquire
To

Sir it is with feelings of regret that it devolves
upon me, as one of the Committee to write to you on the present occasion
and in the manner which the interests of Texas, and
more particularly of the Eastern part of it requires we
should do. We of the east have watched over every
movement & step of the movements and have joined and
in the end for the purpose of defending the frontier of Texas
from the ravages of an enemy But stepping against her rights
and it is painful for us to say that many of those

[illegible] could settle a treaty or convention as they would, we
believe we have not been unwilling to enter into such treaty
nor were our fortifications been thrown open to the hands
of the British. Because the Officers and Soldiers and
fortunately for the Country and for their own safety have not the
number in equal number to us. we have sufficient provisions
not, and the want both of provisions and the implements
of war, these things we have been promised, our hopes and
this subject has been defeated and our expectations blasted
we find ourselves now without either meat and are hardly called
upon by the British people by letters written from their
Comfortable Quarters, to keep up the siege, have we keep
of ammunition provided? or the implements of war?
if this question is not complied answered this we will make, your
Excellency, we ask you to reflect and ask us this subject while you
have got time, much more than different method effective action
must change this scene, large reinforcements to the enemy already arrived
-ted, and our numbers not reduced under five hundred
We ask your serious consideration if you do not
intend to settle us here it is time we should know in order that we
may defend our own Quarters

We are very Respectfully
Your
Obedient Humble Servants
H. McDaniel

Camp before Petersburg
May 1st 1781

His Excellency the President of the Provincial Government

Sir

Yesterday morning at day light or rather before we mustered
our Troops
for battle. Col. Wilson with a party of about 300 Militia men
and Riflemen upon the town of Wilson. His party he divided into
two divisions which we entering into the town took possession
of the Houses near each Shore, where they must
have met a considerable battery with the enemy, they have not had
a fair contest the enemy, they have not sustained the enemy
offering a strong and obstinate resistance It is difficult to determine
what injury this attack have done, about killed certainly, but how many
cannot be told, as our Rifle men retreated & Rifle.
The Militia ascribed to an immediate desire of the Enemy
on the Heights have silenced them entirely as it is reported to us
[illegible] of dreadful of cannon. Upon there is on the water no
considerable reinforcements have near arrived but not yet been
obtained but certainly there is not more than some 30 or 40
miles off. The Express has been dispatched for an immediate
supply of ammunition, as much powder and lead as can

Especially the last mentioned details
this is more beyond the Combined Artillery already made up
Hope that Gun, mules or horses will be furnished to Lt Col
and these details with the greatest possible Speed Travelling
night and day for this is not a moment to be lost,
Reinforcements of men also are for the time indispensible to
our Salvation Hope every exertion will be made to force
them out to our relief immediately

B. E. Milam
Volunteer Bureau

To the Genl Comdr Of Texas

Sir very critical condition
in which the Volunteer army now before San Antonio is
placed induces me without offering any Apology to intrude
myself upon your attention.

Various rumors Rumors concerning an information has
reached this place and also the Camp at Perez that Col Morales
- Cheo was on his march with about 700 men to reinforce Gen
Cos, and when I left the Army, Morales had not
day, An Express reached Gen Austin before last informing him
that Col Milam with three hundred men had taken possession
of one part of the town, and by that time Express gone an order
upon to reinforce your fellow citizens as soon as possible,
that neither you nor the country may be led into a dangerous
Mistake and induced to believe that San Antonio was fallen, I
will Explain to you the true condition of things in order that
you may be enabled to act understandingly.

The position was occupied by our Troops on Monday
evening in Storming a work near the Town called the Alamo
be very Strong, Troops had been ordered to fall by Gen Cos to reen-
force Bexar and when I left the Army Morales had not
Col Milam with three hundred men had taken possession
of one part of the town, and half of the reinforcements
daily be drawn off to the assistance in order to attack them
Separately from which reason and Cover their retreat should
be Cause necessary, Between them and the Town there are three Strong
stone buildings occupied by armed Troops who have to be dis-
lodged before any Body can advance further when added the
are Fifteen other Strong buildings in different part of the Town
which is strongly fortified Still reserved in possession
of the Mexicans, and when attacked in Force they make Stiff
resistance to the Almost Sure to be that Bexar is not yet
taken but if Troops should be reinforced that
our brave fellow Citizens also have gained no important
an advantage will prove of small and be accordingly the cause

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[illegible] adhering [illegible] a new [illegible] will be [illegible] from the date of the [illegible] if the enforcement is not [illegible], if the [illegible] immediately enforced a different [illegible] and [illegible] effluent [illegible] accumulated, situated as [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] will be [illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] will be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Communications from Sundry individua
Sc various persons, laid before the General Counci

Matagorda 4th January 1836

To the President and members of the Council
Gentlemen,

P.P. Royall
Jo
Comm'd. Town

When I arrived at Mr Reuells he was in and I have not been able to see him til last evening. He will be in San Filipe on Thursday evening.

Col Austin has written me a letter from Nacogdoches. Every word is Independence, he says that we can get men & money in the cause of Independence, and advise a declaration immediately. I must acknowledge he changes with great rapidity. If he could lend us his public money & provisions with half as much rapidity we could declare for any thing we please and maintain it.

I hope the Council will not open the Land offices. The people below (that is, in the Lower Country) are violent even indignant on the subject, you are already accused of being under the influence of bribery corruption &c. But the people are now beginning convinced of this Error.

Some dissatisfaction of opinion prevails as to Smiths Conduct, but most the better portion are in favor of the Council, those who would advocate him are his old friends and say they cannot believe him dishonest, I am decided it is necessary to have his compromising Papers printed & the unity of the Committee, we cannot deal deliberately on the Subject, the Truth and all the Truth must be known. Smith is writing to his friends in an Exciting and appeals manner, in one he is apprehensive of being assassinated. Hope you will not permit him by orders to get the letters & feelings of the Committee. If you will find the Compromising document and publish it all will be well. I wish you also to do me the favor to send it to me as I have use for it Every

Yours with much regard
P.P. Royall

San Filipe Dec 15. 1835.

To the Committee &c.

C.C. Committals.
Jo.
Wmt. Mayf.

Nacogdoches, Gentlemen,

By Appointment of the General Council of Texas communicate the happy intelligence of the fall of Bexar.

Maj Bay and other Gentlemen have just arrived here who bring the following account,

On Friday last the town and fort of Bexar was surrendered by Cós and Mexicans with all the public Stores &c, &c.

The attack was led by Col. Milam, who unfortunately lost his life on the second day of the action, after which, it is said Francis Johnson commanded in the action, the Battle was maintained on both sides, our troops passed from house to house by cutting thro' the partition walls and cutting passages under the streets. All who were in the action are entitled to applause but our informant speaks in particular commendation of the N-Orleans Grays. This Government is still desirous that you will continue your Efforts to forward an escort to the Post at Bexar must be maintained, and also that of Goliad Those in camp have done their duty & deserved their Tour & should be relieved.

We remain very truly Your obt Servts
Committee
P. B. Bennett
R. R. Royall
James Powers

San Filipe de Austin Dec. 28. 1835.

Messrs "Mercator", Forbes & Cameron

Gentlemen

Your appointments as Commissioners to make a treaty with the Cherokees and their associate bands, induced me to say that I was in company with Doctor John Cameron a contract for colonizing the Grant of land near the mountain of St. Sava. and as an Exchange of Territory might meet the wishes of said Indians, I authorized your Commissioners to make the Exchange should it meet the wishes of both parties. always reserving to Dr. Cameron my self & others the right of contract in the new Territory as secured by us at this time in said Colony

I am Gentlemen your very humble Servt
James Powers

Matagorda 24th Dec. 1835

R. R. Royall Esqr
San Filipe

C. Milam
To
R. R. Royall

I have written time after time for information relative to my duties and a copy of the Provisional Government and all the acts of the Convention and I have appointed James Collingsworth State atty he will not I am ashamed he has to investigate that damnable League.

and consideration that has at the pass. It would be well enough to appoint some other Lawyer as Jeffre et Collinsworth is on his way to the United States as he writes me. Travis would be the man, I think our part and honors as good citizens ought to be protected by the Strong arm of the Law. Corruption and villany pushed to the Center of such comes under the purview of the Law. I refer you to Col. Robinson as respects my difficulties with those Mexican prisoners at Fisher &c.

I do in plain Language believe them all to be Pirates according to the Law- Nations as far as my humble Opinion extends, as to the Committee of vigilence I do not consider that any exists in this place the committee now consists of Fisher Dayneau R O H Boyle & Chase at the pass, Bro Mr Just this moment arrived from Brazoria there were two men died from Columbus Ga, he saw those gentlemen also they stated that the same day they sailed in the B. Lavaca 140 men from Macon Geo. It's also announced in Geo. Papers who say a quarantine release in forms one, "those are facts to a certainty those Commissions ought to sent on if its consistent as they then could form a uniform patroll & Keep this place in order, the Commissions of Sharp & Ingram

Respectfully Yours
from Charles Wilson.

Capt J Cairnes,

Sabine River
Newton Sept 30 1835

Dear Sir

Although late, I received Your favor of the 5th ultimo about 5 days ago by the ordinary mail and am happy to see that good sense commences to show itself in your department. Seperately you will find a news paper, the Courier & Enquirer of yesterday, in which there is an official communication dated to the acting Govern of that State by Mr Bonilla the Secretary of relations in which the intentions of the Government are clearly explained. They are of a peaceable nature and well calculated to tranquilize the people—

You ask me if the Government will sell Texas: and I answer, that, as far as I know the present will never sell a single inch of that precious province, As to the line there is not the least alteration it will begin at the mouth of the Sabine Lake and continue along the Sabine River.

It is the change of the present System of Govern

no great alteration is to take place, We should only have a general congress, composed of two Houses, a President elected by the People, and General laws for all the States, Each State to have a provisional deputation or Council to [illegible] what is necessary for the Local Government, + + +

have recommended in this place, and if you any thing else with
wishes can accomplish any thing I pray write and he will
direct to the above

Yrs. Sincerely
Wm Rippetoe

Camp Near Matamoras May 2nd 1836

Lt Col.

I embrace this opportunity to send you a few lines, I received
Lt Williams your letter of Instruction from Mr Barnet to which I attended
to all its Contents that was in my power, together with the accompanying
Lt Merritt communication to proceed to this place to procure teams to convey
provisions to a market where Merchants were about to send provisions
to this above Market- On my arrival here I learned that the Sec-
retary had been recalled, at which time I Began to think
there was circumstances that came to my knowledge which
prevented me from my object- My wants will not exceed
Before I Should be Indulged by the enemy they will wait on
the Rio Grande a short time to accumulate and outfit any
detachment that may be sent to take Matamoras and so
proceed they Know that we are not advancing to Matamoras.
They March against Point Isabel and Should find at the same
time Lead in Order by land to Cut the Regular and Safe Com-
munication of our Army, I Know that Point is a bad situation
to Land Stores or even to repel an Enemy as they are in want of
provisions and, more particularly Ammunition & Cannon by the
Scarcity of Water we have taken but one, 12 pdr Brass Cannon,
Shells, Canister Shot & Case shot, and at Some inconvenient Season
have sent to Bejucal, there are materials there sufficient to Cast
Balls make Shot & Shells sufficient for one Ton of Powder, I
have have no way Charge 12 Kegs of Rifle Powder have we Could
that I am now trying to send to Tampico immediately, the citizens of
this part of the country have become violently Revolutionized, in the
Barrels of flour to be sent to Bejucal and then we Shall be in the Bounds
of Peter Piper, Secretary to Mexico at it but will not take Government
Security, but Send the same into Matamoras with an account for
Storage in favor of Grado and Barnet Said Duty on them. Capt
Patch Mr Clure & Lt Wells have given their individual notes Payable
in 30 days to Mr Barr for the 10 Barrells of flour sent to army, which
have undertook to raise by subscription a sufficient amount to
the balance 50 Barrells Flour &c

I do not doubt & may will Call on me the flour shall
furnished for our Starving Country men in Bejucal.

So Soon as I am advised of any Grain I will send to you
portion of the proceeds and the balance for Negro. Blankets
are Stationed at Bejucal so that flour will be first attended to handed to

All the powder that could in Montgordo is none in my house. and the Merchants of this town already sent what they had to Camp by Nir Moor 200 lbs
and San Antonio is in want of Every thing that an army can want

Sam Ler, Lit. Quar Mr at Lorett & Denison Texas
Saml. Williams

Gen'l. F. Austin

L.C. Barrett
To
S.F. Austin

Dear Sir

When the late convention had organized a provisional Government, that body adjourned to meet again on the first of march next or sooner if the Governor and Council should see a call, leaving the power to the Government to convene a new election of delegates with more ample powers. I was one delegated by the People to the late convention.

I am of opinion that there should be an ordinance of the Provisional Government for calling a convention, and when the plan of equality in representation as nearly as possible, making a basis of one, or of two members from the smaller Municipalities and the Congressional ratio of Population, but inasmuch as your ratio Knowledge of the Country and its interests must exceed that of most others among us, and your relations of such a character as to render your opinions of great weight and calculated to harmonize popular feeling in its present unsettled State. I was induced to request a full and free expression of your views upon the subject as the Chairman of the Committee of State Aff. of the General Council, that my Committee may report such ordinance to the Council with all the possible advantages to the public which the nature of the case requires. Believing that this object should be effected with expedition, your reply is requested at your earliest leisure—

With great Respt. Your obt Sert.
L.C. Barrett of Miss
San Filipe de Austin Dec 3. 1835. Chr. of Comt. on State affairs.

Alexandria Oct 27th 1835

J. Harper
To
Someone

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 29th ult came to hand a few days ago, and according to request I went immediately to Captain R. Anderson to see if I could get the fifty Stand of Arms that he has charge, I shew him your letter, he says if your Government will give him a Captains Commission that he will raise a company of men and come on and use the ar-

himself. and I did not hesitate to tell him I was satisfied that you would procure him the Commission and that he might begin to raise the men. he has also agreed that if he does not raise the Company that he will let me have the arms to send on by my becoming Responsible to the United States for them and to stand between him and all damage. I told him I would do so— I will secure it Commission if I get them as he cannot sell—

There passed up the River on board the Steam Boat Cachita on the 28 inst a company of 60 men Commanded for your country said to belong to Captain Sims who was at Natchitoches— I thought it my duty to do my part. as far as I could and got a man and put him in the Company I fitted him out with a uniform, a good rifle 25 lbs of good powder and as much lead as he could carry Blanket Butcher Knife &c. I gave him a letter to you he came to me recommended by our Editor who is a gentleman and he says that Mr Nicholas Kelly is a gentleman and that he was a journeyman in his office at the rates of $100 per month and that he was very sorry to loose him, this is the character of the man I have sent to your country to fight—

Capt Anderson is a gentleman that has been raised in this place, he fought in that country in 1812 his character unblemished he has been Captain of a volunteer Company in this place several Years, and understands his business well he has a handsome property here, and I have no doubt but he can raise more men here than any other man and if there can be any thing for him you must let him know as soon as possible— as to any thing that I can do for that Country you may rest assured it will be done freely— I think I can do more here than if I were there, and after I have done all here that I can I will come and fight a little myself we are all well— our love to all— write often to all—

Your friend & obt Servant

Tho. L Hooper

Quintana Nov 25 1835

T. F. McKinney Esqr
Texas

To

L. Simmons

Dear Sir, having learned, your recent going to San Filipo, and feeling much interest in all events at home satisfactory information on which we may rely in relation to our past & present situation we must beg leave to trespass upon your patience by requesting you will give your attention to that matter generally

It is extremely difficult for one who is not witnessing the scenes and occasions of our situation to give the proper remedy which we require, your having been a witness of the passing events can better give evidence than the messenger of one who [illegible]

Citizens are aware that volunteers have been called together at this place or rather at Orleans for the purpose of making defence against our enemies enemy of Texas even have not the means of paying Texian Bills. besides, they would be unwilling to leave their farms, grow clandestine and care, the movement they knew that such demands were made- Again, many are without arms & munitions of war and without these nothing of this kind can progress, no one has had blame to attach in such cases except an individual responsibility, this has been done, and how is it to be legalized or whether at all or not is a question and to whom shall applications be made for such authorization? as much of consist as much called in applications for, Agents vessels and seamen for the movement are indispensable necessary for the protection of our coast entire arrangements are made to that end, Texas have been encouraged to take that purpose as upon them to testify to knowing personally how a Texian pilot acted ... the Texas, the William Robins was seen Confiscated and are informed that bills are drawn on us for the money to pay for her. The crew of the San Felipe, I think eight in number were about to leave and it has been that they were necessary for navigating the William Robins they have been detained by quarantining, this would not this has been done on the ultimate responsibility, uncertain of this is right or wrong according to the existing practices & opinions of our present state of things.

Dispatches have been sent to the army have encamped for by the Commander of the Troops and Same not called for believing they were necessary have been sent. What has occurred may again occur and as the deeds of our army depends greatly on organization and discipline, do I conceive a Government should have such as much every act of public importance depending from its proper source and be commanded an authority, with country and being an information on this subject and of steps have not been taken they and have it done to place in proper position, it may be necessary to charter vessel or vessels for emergencies, even at the same authority.

The San Felipe used in voyage so far as can be traced, in which is the vessel and most of the Cargo) we have ordered to remain anchored from the intercourse with and land leave which cannot and be taken in relation to it here, we decide this because we were fearful that our letters would object to some of the proceedings of Texas and may meeting to see an unfriendly feeling towards this country in the case our humble individual of the United States please forward information on this subject to many other matters of a public character which interest particularly this department and suggest themselves to your imagination. The schooner

Columbus has been Stranded on the beach near this place and abandoned and sold, me together with Captain Harkins of this place who became the purchasers, her American Register having returned to the United States her tonnage is 65 Tons, will you please if practical procure for her a register, we have a small Schooner the Lady Madison 19 Tons please also procure for her a register if practical

Very respectfully Your obt Servt
Thos. F. McKinney

Velasco 28th Oct. 1835

To Richard Ellis, San Felipe

T. F. McKinney
In
R. M. Royall

Dear Sir Yesterday we received the Circular from the Council of Texas to the people Generally, One had been Kindly enclosed me which I received this day Receiving, but it was taken by the volunteers from N. Orleans recalled not able to get possession of it again. I see a disposition evinced to satisfy me with a matter in which I claim to be interested and I have it will not be unbecoming to say a few words on the subject inasmuch as every man should be permitted to attend to his own business. I refer to the resolutions received from Mr S. Houston for the purpose of rescinding and declaring void certain extensive claims of land made by the State Congress of Coahuila and Texas since 1833.

Until I would ask Gentlemen how that Convention, denied Judicial Powers- Secondly, are they empowered, to the manner & conditions under which the purchasers grants have been made & Thirdly- has ever a free Citizen of an Enlightened a Republican & civilized Country, where men are to be stamped with the Slanderous epithet of Suspicion and Speculation until they have permitted after being notified, that charges were preferred against them, to be heard once after what evidence they have in their justification and in support of their rights this is all I claim for as a matter of favour I ask nothing. If those Claims, have been illegally made they are always voidable to the end of the world and so will be decided by any Tribunal, wherever we have Tribunals competent to try such rights established or recognized. If they are legal and just, then they will always be so before any Just Tribunal. The opinions to the contrary, notwithstanding: So far as I am interested I have stated and again say I am willing to yield up my interest in that Speculation if the least grace to this town materially does be done by it. I have right to a grant of Land in addition in this Colony and the supreme Colony which I will cheerfully resign to the country cause at what I

paid for it which is nearly nothing. But to have one foot of lands, to which I can prove I have any claim trespassed upon and uprooted from me without my own consent is what I oppose and protest against, and will resist so far as I have the means of resistence, against which endorsement have gentlemen who are in the United States dealing out most liberally their promises in the cause of Texas if their claims to lands are not to be respected so far as they are legal. I presume you are aware that the Capital which will be wanted in the United States for the cause of Texas comes principally from Capitalists who are interested in lands in Texas, and if the first step of the Country is to declare their interests null and void, the natural consequence will be, that they will withdraw their protection from us & rely if patriotism alone is to be the inducement by which we are to raise means, we will depend upon a slender foundation.

If you will inform yourself as to the manner and conditions of these grants you will find it's nothing more or less than a colonizing contract differing from those heretofore made because the Empresarios have to pay a certain price for the privilege of selling the Lands to Settlers, I repeat that I ask for nothing by way of favour, I only wish my rights to be upon the same footing with others, and sustained so far as Justice and Law will sustain them.

If my lands are to be taken because I have procured more than I ought to have, then I would say Let us establish a court of Enquiry and ascertain how much land every man shall have and take from those who have too much and give to them who have too little but Let us have a Court established for the purpose & that by an authority competent & having the right to establish such Court. I do not conceive that the legality of any claim could be effected by any discussion or resolutions of the Conventions, &c, &c, I only fear that erroneous opinions may go abroad and those who are in the United States holding interests in Lands in Texas will loose all confidence in rights being duly respected & with it loose the lively interest they feel for the country and I do assure you that those men have fixed an estimated value on their claims and advanced ten fold its value for the countries cause, if this enthusiasm is not checked by contract of interference here by this people to destroy it, and if policy ever has necessary sir now it certainly is now.

Hope You will by the first opportunity let me hear from you on this subject Your Friend & obt Servt. Thos. F. McKinney

P.S. I have little doubt if the others could be consulted in a reasonable way who are interested all would be willing to give up the land Claims for what they have actually cost them & all would and will but otherwise I really believe much and very great evil will result

Yrs &c.

Mor Dinnitt

Lynchburgh 9 Dec. 1835

Regarded Sir

I received the day before yesterday your
letter of the 23 ult: handed to me by Mr A. Bianett and not
by Mr J.W. Bagley who I suppose is at San Filipe in the contents
of said letter I observe an ardent zeal for the cause embraced
as well by yourself as by those Volunteers who are worthy Sons
of the great Republic, and in as much as the said letter treats
on an important matter on which my opinion is asked, and
even my existence depends, I am going to emit my opinion
in Both matters, Respecting the Expedition to the interior of
Mexico and particularly that to Matamoras, it is certain that
there is no numerous garrison at the latter place, nor is any expected
information will soon arrive there of Genl. Mexia's Expedition to
Tamaulipas Should that expedition result favourably which is probable
then you ought Speedily to proceed with your brave volunteers to
Matamoras to occupy that town and aid it Should the expedition
to Tamaulipas Terminate unfavourably then yours will be hopeless
doubtful, for you are well aware of the influence which the
result of Expeditions Exercises over the moral feeling of an
army, I feel greatful to your Hond. Committee for the Honor
conferred on me in asking my opinion and also for that of
calling me to Join their rank, my regret at not being able to ac-
cept so respectable an invitation is equal to the noble Senti-
ments which animated those defenders of Liberty, my regret
is profound: it is deep: But the obstacle to my acceptance
are insurmountable for I cannot unite my personal efforts
to theirs but My best wishes accompany them, Be pleased
to accept my excuse and to make them Renewed to the
Gentlemen. accepting also the Sentiments of gratitude and
respect with which I remain

Your most obt Servent
Lorenzo de Zavala

Ex Zavala
to
Limitts?

Correspondence of Bryan & Hall with Governor Smith & General Council.

Agency of Texas New Orleans
March 16th 1836

To His Excellency the Governor
and Hon. Council of Texas.

Wm. Bryan to Council

Sirs.

I have received a letter from Cincinatti Ohio & with it two Rifle pieces complete excepting barrels, presented by citizens of Cincinati (Thos. M. McCoy Chairman of Texas committee Edward Woodruff & Pulaski Smith Esqrs) To the Government of Texas, I have in the name of the Government acknowledged this receipt and presented them with your thanks for this noble and acceptable donation. At this request Mr W.C. Ogden has the charge of shipping the guns to the Government. It also Mr Ogden's intention to devote himself to the cause of Texas we have no doubt, he will prove a valuable acquisition to the army

I have the Hon. to be
Very respectfully,
Wm Bryan
Lieut agent.

From Agency for His Ey. the Governor & Hon Council of Texas.

Agency of Texas Nieuw Orleans
March 9. 1836

Lieut

The documents relative to the loss of the Zavanilla has been forwarded to this office, it is my misfortune that the Document will be carefully recovered but not under three months which will not relieve the present wants of the office. The flour and corn per the Cruelline were not insured but was but a small amount. From circumstances which have come to my knowledge I have good reason to believe that by accident all the Early documents sent by this office have not come to hand I am more fully satisfied of the fact from the letter of his Excelly G.W. Robinson Act Gov. dated February 14th 1836 viz which this agency is not recognized to the contents of which letter we must heartily respond & will use every exertion to rally the friends of Texas in the Glorious cause). The circumstances to which I allude are receiving no official information from the Government the loss of vessels by which letters were forwarded when leaving ordered the loss of all letters by sea to Texas. The Brig if they should be in peril of Pirates, and also the uncertainty of the Mails to convey this information to which this can be accepting part the Government. I have forwarded such documents as this agency posits of

a brief extract of my several letters which I presume have not been received. We presume the loan will be ratified immediately and that we as the official agents shall be authorized to give notice of the same to secure an early payment of the installment and meet the engagement of acceptances given by this office, would it be the pleasure of the Government to allow this agency to receive the several installments so paid in our credit would be so established as to enable us to meet the wants of the Government to almost any extent.

We could also so arrange that the Government could draw upon this office for funds counted in Texas and save the risk of the transportation of money. We could also make an arrangement that would be satisfactory to the Government in respectfully presenting the above proposals, we would remark that we shall cheerfully submit to whatever the Government in their wisdom may determine upon

I have the honor to be

Your most obt. Servt.

Agency of Texas New Orleans March 8th

To His Ex. the Governor &
Hon. Council of Texas

With this you will receive notice of the charter of the Schr Equity Captain Hunter for the purpose of forwarding Capt Allen and his men, for particulars of which we refer you to the letter of the purchasing Agent. The printed document of the Government dated San Felipe February 13. giving the advance of the Mexicana has reached this place, and caused considerable consternation and fears from the alarm expressed at the situation of your volunteer troops. We have also heard a rumor of the loss of the Samaniego but have not yet advices as to when or under what circumstances, She was insured for $16.000 with liberty to touch at Texas and proceed to Matagorda, She was sailed for Cuba, if she is lost beyond Matagorda the insurance is void, if lost between Brazos and Matagorda, the amount may be recovered, We advise per mail of the 28. that insurance has been made and presume in case of her loss another protest will be forwarded and a proper sale made by your agents so that the full amount can be recovered from the insurers, I would suggest whether you, in case she is lost, in using every means to send this cargo on account to the Government.

Col Wharton was to have sent on a bill of lading after leaving Velasco for this founder below the city, as he did not do it will be absolutely necessary that the Govt

Traveller Merchants are not to receive or obtain Passports and Protection to be sent as the Inducement of the Passport, the Consul demanded, or the Governor could not effect it, unless sent to the Secretary of State, which duties from the Law of Nations would be highly criminal, and we shall immediately Commence Hostilities against the Regency, the Consul Retired from the Month with 23 the Bantus, Gunpowder & Meats covering on the 3rd instant the Whitehead & Received on the 5th. We have not yet heard of the arrival of the Commissioners at Washington, nor have we had any advices from them, we have also no advices from the fort we are waiting with the utmost anxiety for the order from you as requested by the Commissioners, or for some funds from the Country we have as we before stated, sufficient on Credit of funds in our hands, owing largely in advance to the government, sent forward the two last named vessels at an expense of over $4000. in equipment and provisions, the amount by Treaty we will see by Invoices, Receipts and daily Accounts and Vouchers that to the utmost thrift, nothing Can be done without money and Consul not Receiving the Compensation of an order or instructions from you Country or the Commissioners May Detention is Extremely Embarrassing and Calculated to Involve us into a Position highly disadvantageous to our Country attributable to the Situation of this Agency, we have Drawn a Bill to pay a high Character for the Expenses of the Embassy of the Treasury

Consulate Office Tripoli Barbary Aug 31. 1836

Wm Bryan To His Ex. Henry Smith
To Governor of Md.
Gov. Smith

Sir I have no reason to suppose the Receipt of any Despatch of the 20th via the Baltic will be published before Mr. Nicholson will leave Tripoli Letters Communications Journals Orders and shall continue to give them to Mountains to destroy my Communications to the Government, should there be any Means of sending them will receive from this Regency Agent an invoice by Mr. Nicholson, the Contributions of the Agency Consulate amounting to four hundred Dollars, Consul Government Vessels Commissioners fully instructed with Remarks in duplicate Received. The Consul Minister will wait six days Consulate letter for 4 months, a Merchant Vessel, Letters the Regency will, must remain the same time without for a Vessel. There is about one hundred tons, not a fine Vessel. Wants to Purchase off Sch. Nafzger, Cyrus Lower Canada, sent to

Towards gaining Territory etc. would give up the Creek reserve, has been doubly fortified by Runners, viz a Rebel Tribe Brown & Marion & yet remain for Texas. Those of no other nation certainly intended for the Mexican Service, if so others, shall advise you, the Commissioners named to the agency that they should advise with the Government in regard to the Comanches in our accounts which necessarily resulted from having Special agents at this place for particular purchases we would respectfully recall attention to circumstances to remind you that from the circumstances under which we are placed we can always make more advantageous Treaties than do Strangers, & gain more advantages at time, and that a multiplicity of agents usually tends to injure the credit of the Government. We would remark however that it would always give us pleasure, to receive official communications by the Government, to supervise Vouchers, or Examine the accounts of our office, Your Excellency is well aware that when the responsibility rests of a faithful discharge of a public trust then should rest the power to insure its proper Execution and this must be our apology for introducing these observations on your attention

I have thus far found no difficulty as it regards the credit of the Government which is a fact highly honorable to Your infant Republic, Proper care and a strict Compliance with obligations will here effectually secure it no exertions on my part shall be wanting to secure that object. I have advised the Commissioners at Washington Specially of the situation of my accounts and shall anxiously wait advices of the Government as to future movements. It would give us much satisfaction & facilitate our business to be officially advised of the different revenue officers or agents of the Government in the several Ports.

I have the honor to be
Respectfully Your obt Servt
Wm F Bryan
General Agents.

Agency Office New Orleans Feb. 2. 1836

Same. Wm E Henry Smith } Sec'y
To Hon Council of Texas. } Ext.
Same.

I have the honor to enclose duplicate of my respects by William A Turner No 6 Jan 3 & which was sent also a second duplicate No 5 Jany 26. A Schooner met with some damage going down the River & will be detained until the 6th inst. I have &c

Recind Letter from the Commissioners advising of their having given an order upon this Agency in favor of Col J. L. Owings for five thousand Dollars and the enclosed Letter advised a transfer of that amount from the Treasurer, (of the deposites in the Bank of Orleans) to this agency, I enclose a copy of the letter of the Commissioners, and an Extract of the requisition of Col Owings, Here is to raise a full Regiment of men for your Service, I have forwarded to the Commissioners a Statement of the business of this office up to the 20th inst. of which I also convey an Extract, which will give you the amount of Responsibilities & means, by the Arrival of the Schr. Essex from Laguna, we are advised that an embargo was laid on all vessels in Mexico from Nov 13 to Dec 25. to prevent News reaching the United States of the fitting out of five thousand troops to act against Texas,

I have not much faith in the report as we have had several of the same Kind, but it is my duty to give it for the information of the Government, It will be same absolutely necessary to ensure your Success any reverses in this Coming Campaign, that every means in the Power of the Government should be used to sustain this agency, In anticipation of a want of confidence in the credit of the Government, it has not been my plan to obtain every thing necessary for the war, while the Public feeling of our Citizens was warm in the cause, It is natural to Expect that circumstances may cause a change in the Public feeling when it happens (and any reverse in the good fortune which has thus far attended you will certainly produce it) the greatest energy and promptness on the part of this Government will be absolutely required to sustain its credit here my former letters which I trust have come safe to hand will Explain my views fully, I can only add that if the Government fully place that reliance on my integrity and devotion to the cause which it is my determination to deserve, no Exertion shall be wanting on my part to insure the final Success of Texas, Your Excellency will observe by my Statement annexed the necessity of appropriating at least the $ 5.000= to this office and that more will be required to meet our absolute wants in anticipation of which I shall make all advances that may be necessary to Expedite Col. Owings Regiment

I Remain Respectfully
Gentlemen,
Your obt Servt.
Wm Bryan
Genl. Agent.

Wm Bryan an Agt of Texas, dated 24 1836
New Orleans Jan,

Gen will furnish Col J. L. Downings Co of the 28th U States Army with four thousand dollars in such amounts as he may designate for the use of the Troops he has engaged to raise for the Service of Texas, & charge the same to the Government of Texas—

Yrs Respectfully
S. F. Austin
B. T. Archer
Commissioners of Texas.

Requisition of Col Downing upon the General agent—
100 Flat Cots— 24 Stoves— 24 Spades— Camp Kettles— Blankets
Mosquito Nets— Linnen Bags for Breast work &c for fifteen companies
Men. The details of which I will hereafter forward,

Wm. Wm Bryan
Agent of Texas

January 29. 1836

Sir I have now to request funds to meet the four thousand dollars which are here this day directed you to furnish to Col. J. L. Downings Men, will you apply to the Government of Texas for an order for a part of the deposit of ten thousand Dollars, made by us in the Bank of Orleans to the credit of the Government.

Yours Respectfully
S. F. Austin
B. T. Archer
Comrs.
of Texas

Statement of the amounts of the Agency Office Receipts
Jany 28. 1836 To Bal of unappropriated Cash $591.00
Do appropriations since May 15/22 4,407.60
Do " July 15 22 14,000.00
Letters of Credit to Brooks & 30,000.00
Purchase of Brutus due on the last instalment loan 15,000.00
Cr. Ord in Execution estimated 5,000.00 $58,407.60
Order in favor Col Downing of which address is now given 5,000.00
$ 63,407.60

The above does not include future transportation of Troops which is always Cash

Wm Bryan
Ind, Agent

Agency of Texas. New Orleans
March the 14 1836.

Same
do
Same

To His Ex, the Governor &
Hon. Council of Texas.

Gent

We have this day received from the Commissioner the enclosed letter on Public Business and a request to dispatch it immediately by land. We have the h

to advise you fully of the situation of this affair covering duplicates of papers & documents by which one leaned have not been received by you by the Equity that sailed on the 12th with Captain J. McAllen and Recruits, which vessel will stop at the Brazos and send up dispatches from this office, the Secs. William & Frances sailed for Copano with Maj. Miller & 95 men on the 2d. The Equity has an assortment of Provisions & equipments on board which are also Exported Cannon Balls, The Commissioners have not arrived before this date at Washington, we shall not therefore be able to hear from them for 15 or 20 days, This office has a debt against it at this moment of five thousand dollars, besides my individual advances, The insurance on Tamaulipas will probably be recovered in about three months

I have the Honor to be
Your Respectfully
William Bryan
Agent

General agency office New-orleans
January 26, 1836

Same. To Hon Ex. Henry Smith
To Governor of Texas
Same. Sir

Enclosed you will receive Copies of Bonds for the Independence now fitting out to sail in ten days the Brutus not yet arrived and the letter of Credit to Mr Gates who proceeds to Newyork for the purpose of purchasing a Steamboat to run between New-Orleans & Texas and act as the Government may require in defence of the coast You will observe that the ownership of the several vessels is vested in the agency I shall by each vessel send a power of attorney to some person in Texas, authorizing a transfer of the vessels to the Government. Particular directions will accompany the Power of Attorney, in consequence of Public opinion setting so strongly into the United States against the System of letters of Mark and reprisals on the part of Texas, that as soon as the owner of the Brutus was induced to offer that vessel to the Commissioners at his disposal with out interest on account ~~of~~ which said vessel was equipped for war. Her Patriotism displayed on this occasion will at once recommend him to the favorable notice of Texas, The Brutus is the largest and will be undoubtedly from the cheapest and best vessel in the navy, the Commissioners have left in the Bank of Orleans $10,000 to the credit of the Government, the present ~~Executive~~ Secretary of War and the existence of any exception will give an agent to the Government, would at present impossible for him to obtain his Accounts, until upon mature deliberation, which shall appear to him to be necessary, and doing, serving the Equity must

necessity shall demand it, should the present demand for an augmentation it may become extremely difficult for the agency to execute fully Government orders, nothing but the strictest Punctilio in all my arrangements can secure the credit of the Government hire, hired & the loan of the 11 January must be ratified by the Convention I have the promise of the Commissioners to appropriate the first paid able funds to meet the obligations of this office, I would strongly impress upon your Excellency the absolute necessity of sustaining this agency as being the only source which in any sudden emergency, the munitions and materials of war can be obtained in season to insure success,

With this forward a statement of this office to date, in which you will observe the small amount of cash at this Government disposal and my large responsibilities.

I would therefore respectfully suggest to you, that if future drafts should be given in favor of the Public debt which can be shortly be transferred to this agency as the present state of affairs the last unfavorable news would directly affect the credit of the Government, a check upon the Bank of Orleans payable to my order signed by yourself & countersigned by the Secretary of State as aforesaid by the Council would be a sufficient transfer. Your Ex. may be fully assured that having undertaken the Responsibility I shall not shrink from any duties I may be called upon to perform, trusting the Government will place full confidence in my integrity of purpose and sustain me in the agency I have the Honor to conduct,

Captain Hawkins under the appointment of the Commissioners will go out in the command of the Independence I shall give Captain William A Hurd, the command of the Brutus subject to the orders of the — on his arrival in Texas, I can strongly recommend him as a brave & meritorious man who has suffered much in the cause She will be said in a few days after her arrival, being now completely fitted

Yrs Respectfully &c
W. H. Wharton
Agent

Copy

New Orleans January 18 1836

His Ex the Governor of Texas

Sir

Same
To
Same

We have the honor to announce to you our having been appointed by the Hon. Commissioners of the Government of Texas, General Agent & Purchasing agent to transact the Government business in this City. By our appointment it is made the duty of the General Agent to

= faind with the Executive, give all information that may be important, receive such communications as you may think proper to address to him, dispatch all orders emanating from the Government forwarding our accounts every three months for Examination, &c should be pleased to receive from your directions as to the manner in which such communications should be made & such General directions as may ensure the transactions of the business in a manner satisfactory to the Government.

We have the honour

Yours Respectfully &c.
Wm Bryan
General agent
Edward Hall
Purchasing agt.

Agency of Texas, New Orleans
March 29th 1836

To
His Ex. the Governor &
Hon. Council of Texas
Gent.

Same
To
Same

One Mr Hall left here via the Pennsylvania, to meet the Convention, that this agency might more fully understand the wants and wishes of the Representatives of the People of Texas, I presume he is with you before this, to him I would respectfully refer for information in regard to the business of this office. The news of Bettelley of Bejar has reached us and created a feeling of deadly hostility to Mexico There can be no doubt that now the universal feeling of our people is in your favour and that the address of the Hon. Committee will meet a hearty response in the feelings of the people of the United States, the Public are much Excited and we have already had, as agents, offers of assistance, but not in a way that could be immediately available, by this vessel (the Congress) we send fifteen twenty and thirty volunteers, and also 200 Kegs Powder, That volunteers have been despatched with arms &c by the agency. By the next vessel we shall send another invoice of Powder, & shall send all the Provisions that can be obtained on time, we have endeavored to obtain Sand Rifles but few are now to be had here, we have sent up the River for them, the papers state that a Schooner despatched this Liberty, besides Capturing a Mexican vessel, has robbed an American vessel of a Cable and Anchor, and given an order I presume as the agency for payment, The act would be sanctioned by our Courts as Piracy, and unless measures are taken to disavow it by Texas, and satisfy the American Government, The Liberty will

be best to give one treated as a pirate; should the full suite the laws of the United States, should the agency pay the order they are committed as accessaries, It must be left to the wisdom of the government to settle the outward affair, we deem it our duty to apprise you of this, that a a settlement may be made before the United States send a demand for the vessel and crew, The capture of the Mejicano vessel, she being owned by americans and insured here has caused great Excitement, and some bad feelings. It is known to be expected.

We have yet no advices from the commissioners or the Government and have not yet received any funds—we have had printed Books of Blank Government orders, one of which we send by this conveyance, we trust they may prove acceptable to you they will certainly save much labour

I have the Hon. to be &c. &c.
Yours Respectfully
Wm Bryan
Genl. Agency.

Agency office Neworleans
February 26 1836

To
Hon Ex. the Secretary of }
Same Hon. Council of Texas } Genl.

I had the honor under date of the 15th to advise you in duplicate of the departure from the city of the Independence & Brutus and of orders given in relation to their transfer to the Government, the delay in obtaining Sailors from their Extreme scarcity has been Extremely vexatious, and consequent advances to be made beyond the Expectation of the agency, Every Exertion has been made to dispatch them and I have been obliged to advance largely from my Private funds. The disbursement of the Independence have been Extremely large, much beyond what the Government could afford, and part of it in a great measure unless in calling your attention to them, I would remark that the agency does not hold themselves responsible for the Expenditure, as the Exclusive of the outfits was given to Captain Hawkins by the Commissioners we had a verbal order appropriating $5 000 to that vessel but the bills were not handed to the agency nor did we know their amount until the Ship was ready for sea with the crew on board, as the Register of the vessel was in my name I was personally responsible for the Bills, & Had I refused payment the vessel would have been attached & proved an almost total loss to the Government, I had therefore no alternative but to pay them Exorbitant as they are, Your attention will be at once called by myself that Capt Hawkins should have gone to such an Expense upon that account

It however becomes my duty to represent the case to the Government and leave it to their wisdom to approve or condemn his conduct. I am so well aware of the absolute necessity of Economy in Expenditures, and have so far as the agency is concerned made so many efforts to insure it, that the Expenditures of Captain Hawkins thus trusted me more than all my other business. The case of the Independence is another strong instance of the disadvantage of appointing special agents for the disbursements of Public money rather than are accountable for the Extent of their disbursements to the regular appropriate agents, we cannot know the Extent of their responsibilities, or the amount to which they involve the agency until it is too late to remedy the evil and then the demand must be paid or the credit of the Government is prostrated. I have several times in my former communications been obliged to refer to the want of money for public use, I will now state that I have been obliged to advance from my private funds about two thousand dollars to get the vessels off that there are bills unpaid which must be settled in Cash to the amount of one thousand dollars, That there are receipts now waiting here that will require at least two Clerks upon which I shall probably be obliged to advance fifteen hundred dollars, as I cannot now get vessels on credit for Government paper, I have also been obliged to give private paper to considerable amount when the agency papers would not be taken, I enclose a Blank to show you what I mean by agency Paper, [

Exchange $ ——— New-Orleans ——— 183—

——— months after date please pay to ——— or order ——— Dollars ——— cents, being Value Received by me as Purchasing agent of Government of Texas and oblige Your &c

To ———. ——— agent.

New Orleans Genl agent for Texas]

The Brutus is now lying at the mouth of the River without a few men, and it is doubtful if they could be obtained even if I had the means, as it requires at least Eight hundred dollars to complete her crew, money is very scarce and cannot be obtained, and I have large payments of my own to make. Were I not so situated I would immediately advance every dollar wanted, but to entrust myself at this moment would so deeply affect the credit of the Government here, as it would myself. Under these circumstances I shall be obliged to order the Brutus down & have her return here as a Government vessel. When leaves

will be more plenty and many too. The patience of Captain Hurd under this disappointment will be severely tried, as the other vessels go fully manned, should any accident happen by his want of men, no blame can be attached to him, no other Captain would show so much forbearance under like circumstances, I would remark that I have conversed with the Shipping master, and he informs me that men cannot be obtained for the Brutus at any price unless she should come again to the city as sailors will not ship on a vessel of the Kind unless they can see her. Should she come up she would inevitably be taken by the custom house.

Much of the difficulty we have had in obtaining men has arisen from Santa Annas proclamations, threatening to treat as pirates all vessels found aiding Texas, a small Sloop arrived yesterday with an Express from Matamoras all we can hear is that she comes up to obtain provisions & that about 7000 men were ready to advance upon Texas as soon as provisions could be obtained. We shall keep out for any vessels sailing and advise you I have been anxiously Expecting orders from the Government in relation to Public business and am up to the present moment without a line, My situation in retirement funds and with accumulating demands is one of extreme Embarrassment earnestly call upon your Excellency and the Council for directions & information as to the Extent to which I may proceed on the public credit and also to supply me with funds, I should feel much more confident and the Public credit with merchants here would be undoubted could it be known that the funds payable upon the loan of January 11th was to pass through this office, I shall by this next safe conveyance, forward you an Extract, Statement of the large responsibilities of this office.

I have the [illegible] to be

Your Respectfully &c

Wm. B. Ivy and

General Agents.

Agency office February 15. 1836.

To his Ex. The Governor
& the Hon. Council of Texas

Gent.

Same
To
Same

I had the honor of addressing my last per Durango, warning the collection of Troops at Matilla to the number of 700 men, also the Proclamation of Santa Anna, a Copy of which I enclose I have now the pleasure of advising you of the sailing of the Brutus Captain Hilliard & Hurd and the Independence Captain C. E. Hawkins for Matagorda. Both of which vessels are the Property of the Government

When I sent a power of Attorney to Capt Wogall Esqr and his case of his address to the General Authorities to transfer the accounts to the Government with directions how to proceed as to enable me to get clear of custom house Bonds they will attend to the Government the Execution of their General orders, the selection of subordinate Officers has been left to the Commanders subject to your orders Captain Mantius was appointed by the Commissioners, and has had the effective control of the disbandment of the vessell Captain Hood gave out as a Captain of a merchantmen subject to your orders on arrival the Long Island Bay that was taken into New Providence has arrived here and will go down under charge The volunteers were in such a destitute condition that I was obliged to supply them with provisions &c, a Statement of which I will forward to gether with the disbursements of the vessel I cannot all in or I should send the accounts by this, some of the recruiting officers have been regularly enlisted men and procuring them into the regular service, at Eyes, I mean it to ascertain whether any such orders have been given by the Government, I have written to Captain Heath at Watlings to request him to immediately stop granting such certificates can wait further orders or I cannot blow the Government have ever given orders which will not only endanger the agency but the safety of the Public vessels now letting out such proceedings are not only calculated to cause disaffection to the cause but has the Parties liable to a Penalty and Fine for misrepresentation, It becomes the duty of the agency to protest against such measures in which I hope not the least doubt the Government will sustain me, I have the pleasure to enclose a letter from Thomas F. McEtwine, who is well acquainted with the situation of this affair and whose opinion will no doubt have much weight with you, He has aimed the Invincible ever to the agency to be fitted out, which I shall do without application of the Public funds to meet the Expence, I am respectfully waiting your instructions to the situation of the offices, I would remark that we are in advance of the Government to considerable amount, and shall have at least Two Thousand dollars of cash bills to pay without a given copy, It cannot be expected of me that I should endanger my own private credit by making too great advances on any credit or I must have letters to completely identified with the Government, The expenses of maintaining the Marines here, and forwarding them to Eyes will require considerable sums, and should the agency not be enable to meet those demands much dissatisfaction will arise, It is needless to be satisfied that you are to be acquainted the absolute necessity of sustaining this agency, you will Excuse me for giving you an immediately the attention of its wants, I have as yet, no reply to the several Communications I have had the honor to address you, and wait with much impatience the ones you may give in relation

to the Banes and duties of this office. By the Bontus you will receive a field Howitzer with carriage and 4 Canes complete, she has also a supply of Powder &c. in boxes of which shall be duly forwarded, the Effects and duplicates of the Bontus & Ammunition have been examined with the strictest scrutiny, those of the Independence were placed by the Navl. Commissioners under the direction of Captain Hawkins for which we do not consider ourselves responsible. We have advices to day from Mexico which say Santa Anna has sent 2000 troops and that it is considered for him to invade Texas. The immunities will not be delained a few minutes longer,

I have the Honor to remain
most Respectfully Your obt. Servt.
William L. Brown
Lieut. agent.

New Orleans February 13 1836

To the Government of Texas

Gentlemen

Having witnessed the Grand necessity of Keeping your agents in this place amply protected, & learning you have funds here, I take one moment to recommend that those funds pay the Thousand dollars be placed in a condition that your agent here can use them. Further than this credit & that of our Country must suffer. I have been very often and Earnestly requested to Examine their Books and accounts, which I will do before leaving and have no doubt will find all satisfactory they are indefatigables to my own Knowledge, I also need money, but they need it more because the Country will suffer if they do not get it, I will work out my own salvation

I remain Yours
Obt. Servt.
Thomas F. Gurney

Agency Office, New Orleans
February 17th 1836.

Sir

Same
To
Same.

I have the honor to inform you that I have received from Matamoras, a letter addressed to me by Genl. Don Jose Urrea dated at Matilla with four seals, exciting Proclamations which are very severe in his accusations he was expected to have arrived there on the 12th of January, he had given Passports to a Lance to import provisions free of duties and as usual as soon as the Mr. Brandell offe

Coast having the private Signal of that Vessel, his troops
are represented as badly armed & provided, and without discipline
and that they cannot move without Provisions (some Cannon
have spiked & Proclamation (which I have not seen) threatening
ing extermination to all Texians who oppose him, and
Protection to those who submitted, and that he should treat
as pirates all armed vessels taken ~~capturing~~ carrying
Arms or ammunition or provisions to Texas, I am enabled
to send this by the unexpected detention of the Ouragon,
I have the Honor to remain
The Private Signal that
Supplies Provisions has
a private Signal, white with
a black cross:

Yrs Respectfully &c.
Wm Bryan
Genl Agent

Agency of New Orleans
March 31 1836

To His Excellency The Governor
and Honorable Council of Texas.

Gentlemen

Same
Do
Same.

Under date of the 14th
I had the Honor to advise you of the Sailing of Equity, under date
16th of the present made from Cincinatti of two field Pieces
complete Sent per Pennsylvania, by which vessel over Mr. Hall
for Texas, to consult with you in regard to Public business
&c, we have now the Pleasure to advise you of the Sailing of the
Congress, with Volunteers & 235 Kegs Powder after mentioned on
1000 lbs each, we heard after the Schooner had left the city that
you were in want of the last named article, we dispatched
a boat after the vessel, with all we could obtain in time, you
will receive a supply by next vessel, and also some Powder
we are in great Excitement at the loss of Bexar, and every
thing Purchased has to be done on private Credit, news of dis-
cess will change the face of affairs, I shall make every effort
to forward Supplies, But without a dollar of money, and the
Government Credit entirely depreciating, I could do but little
could I have it at this moment in my Power to assure
the Public that the sum will be eventually Paid into this office
I have found almost any amount of Supplies, as Privateers
Vessels are constantly Breaking into and I believe have o-
thers to put them off from day to day until I am certain

to meet the Government Creditors, I am kindly estimate the
emplees and the unfortunate situation in which I have been placed
by the delay of the transmission of funds to this office, it has
deeply effected me as the Public Creditor, I confidentially rely upon
you to Restain me, without your assistance and full Confidence
I am I have sacrificed myself for the welfare of Texas, I trust
Mr Hall has arrived and proved to you the necessity of an im-
mediate attention to the Public interests here.

I have the Honor to be Sirs
Respectfully
Wm. T. Bryan
a Grant &c

Letters from & to various Individuals respecting the War, In 1835.

Information given by Juliano Moralio,

That he left Mier on the Rio Grande on the 5th Inst and was dispatched by Canales a Lawyer of Laredo much influence, and by Molano, formerly Lt. Governor of the State of Tamaulipas, Cobar formerly a Senator of the Federal Party in Congress, and Several others of influence who live in Matamoras and other parts of Tamaulipas.

The objects of this mission are to see Governor Viesca and Zavala, and ascertain from them what was the character and intentions of the revolution in Texas for so many reports had reached them on the subject that they were in doubt.

He states that Canales had two hundred men at a place called Palo Blanco this side of the Rio Grande within two days march of San Patricio on the East Molano & Cobas who live in Matamoras have engaged with the Principle inhabitants of that Place to take up arms the moment all is ready. That the Governor of the former State of Tamaulipas Vidal Hernandez has an appointment with Genl. Mejia, to join the cause, that Genl. Urrea and his Brother and many others of the Principal inhabitants of Matamoras are also in the combination and many of the officers who are now on the March against Texas. That the dispersing of Troops at Lipantitlan & San Patricio, are also planned over and ready to join Zuazuas or Canales, when called on,

He also says that the States of Jalisco Sinaloa Sonora have by the name of Guadalajara have refused to submit to the decree of the 3d of Oct and that Genl Montenegro of the Federal party had defeated Genl

ri Tulisco, also that the Battle of Monterrey had commenced against it and was progressing to assist

Mr Otato that reinforcements which were coming on to us, left La Pendas de la Compagnia on the 17th of November for Laredo, when they would probably arrive on the 19th or 19th, that it consisted of about ~~400~~ 1,200 troops mostly Indians who are brought and trained under the Government of Comanches at Laredo, and that one hundred men with two pieces of Artillery had left Matamoras on the 30th for Laredo, the main body, that from the time all these different corps had been on marching they expect to meet enemy at Laredo and be ready on the march either that or second day.

Col Wallace, Adams, Coffee, Evans and others spoke to the Liberal ones duly exciting to keep from Mexico or Texas or both as the objects of the revolutions in Texas - directed it be to sustain the Federal System they will accomodate once on March 20, take Matamoras, attack the Texans, two or three days against Texas, Revolutionize the whole State of Tamaulipas, & Santa with the Powers of the Custom House of Matamoras and Tampico to the Expenses of the War &c.

They all admit that Texas ought to declare Independence, in case the Central Government is finally established, But that she ought first to make some effort in conjunction with the Liberals to have the Federal System which is declared in the explanation given by Captain Miraille, He was an officer of the army of Lacatecas, is a Catholic by birth, Was Educated in Germany in Paris.

Goliad Jan. 21st 1835

Dear Sir

B.M. Bowman
To
J.B. Miller

I arrived at this place about 8 o'clock last Evening with 30 men from Bastrop, I left 8 men on the way who will be here to day, John J. Moore also arrived last night with some 40 or 50 men, everything is lively in camp, the Mexicans are encamped on the opposite side of the Brazos, report as to numbers differ from 1000 to 150, there are probably 125, one cannon yet no wheels for it will be here shortly to day, You will see every Exertion to forward men to our assistance as are Expected Reinforcements from Bejar daily, Every Meeting Have had since immediately we are directed on the subject. Everything requisite will be done so soon as there is a sufficient number, the Chief we are all Captains and have our men, don't be surprised if you hear of a Battle during Eleven days, this day. the word is drawn and it must not be

Received untill Friday to free of Town accounts. We will pay
our to forward our views Should you claim Correct
I am Dear Sir Sir
B. M. Palmer,

Spring Hill 30 Sept 1835.

Dear Sir

G. Sutherland. Yours of the 27 instant came to hand on Tuesday
to last day to hear of your bad health as soon as opportunity
J. Austin. in Texas. I gave a Deed of Gift to Mr Austin for a Town
in Velasco of this time with four hundred acres, adjoining
each Corporation (city) of Austin and except that the Proprietary
of Bexar has ordered a Reservation of six leagues of land
near San Antonio already, and not above one hundred miles
from Velasco 23 days ago, then was about 500 of Regular troops
will be about 2600 men strong, I am fearful that if we move
for some resistance in a short time that our Settlements will be
Broke up, if not so, deserted,

I felt disinclined when first of the 20 came to
the Settlement, but was shocked when Mr John Borden came and in-
formed me that there was no movement to our Rivers, it is the
General opinion that there should be something done, therefore we
wish your advice what to do, they also know that some Reserved
Cases to make some movements in your Town as well as the city
delay until Some of Inhabitants are Destroyed, as to leaving Texas
to your Self Family, I do not know, I will know that I am Settled
must be Rich himself or they get discomfited and will break
up and go Home, I do think that there is danger in delaying
until the Convention make arrangements, for it is uncertain to
Suppose that Co's will not delay much time as to Settlement
that he wants to draw all of the Colonists out of the Country, this
is your Power to Stimulate the People to our Assistance and
Some Confidence in it

I am dear Sir, ever your friend &
Gary Sutherland

Velasco Dec 1st 1835

Dear Sir

The Settling of Land is of vast importance, & for
no other reason but mainly Mine, first to Counteract the
Movement and Views of the Party Sent South Particularly
as with Texas, in which he has the same confidence,
I feared, If Convention retard the movements of the Government
and give Texas more time to consolidate her views and mea-
sures,

3d. To obtain the first victory and strike a panic in the Centralist Party and Stimulate the Liberals.

Time is not a day lost I am getting information of Mexico Our country is filled with Spies, and yet you have not given orders to prevent the entrance of the Mexicans.

I am with my country right or wrong- my sword & money.

4th. To get Possession of Genl Cos' archives and Correspondence.

5th. Offer no more paroles to be transported to Goliad Bejar or any other other Point by which the Mexicans can be facilitated..

6th To be put into Execution Immediately

Can remain Yours

Etc

P. Piedmontt.

Saltillo 30th April 1835

Stephen F Austin Esqr.

Dear Sir

I wrote you on the 27. inst by Porter desiring you to open a letter which I sent by Express addressed to Wm. Steward- I had heard that Gentlemen had gone to the Rio Grand, on the night of the 28th I received an answer to an express which I sent to Lino of Guadalupe, who says that on the Morning of the 25th he met a letter from Edward Linn dated at Saltillo, he said that he intended to stay at the Fair- Sales dull- That there is from 3 to 500 troops about to march from that place to Texas. That there is some trouble about to be in the State of Tamaulipas in consequence of the intended Shutting of the Port of Matamoras. Gen Cos is looked for hourly from Matamoras at Bejar with some 300 Troops, We got a new Comandante Militar in Goliad, Don Francisco Sandoval Lt. Col. of the Morelos Battalion, and Bettencourt a first rate Clever fellow of this Kind- do not go. On the 28, Linn writes that Linten had a Pilot Boat from New Orleans of 6 Tons which Landed 2 Barrels of Cannon 32 Pounds Round Shot 10 in each Bag making 320 in all 2 Cart Loads of Ammunition. Linn says this information Padillio gave him who is now on a visit from Bejar. all those left Goliad for Bejar. this morning We observed, & heard this Expedition would set at Naught Texas, told them to look for Messrs Taylor & Ord living in the Guadalcupe & from them Receive the Cuns on the Bejar road they made only an Escort of 25 or 30 men, a Gentleman of high Standing informed Mr. Linn that Genl. Cos said he should Start, for Matamoras for Bejar so soon as he received 6,000 dollars

with his staff. This cash he wants to pay the debts of the Troops
Many officers have resigned their Commissions rather than
come to Tejas Santa Anna has cancelled that the Part of
Matamoras shall remain open, and it is said that Cos is
coming to arrange Matters with no without further fighting
Mr Linn insists that in case of a rupture I must reserve in
fluence that the officers shall be retained as Hostages until our
People who are in the interior return. He observes that should
Cos fall into our hands with his 600 he would be worth
all the rest, I rather think that the Period has elapsed at
which we could have intercepted Those munitions of War
F. W. Johnson Jr has countermanded the order for the movement
of our Troops against Copano, Mr Johnson says that he has
no doubt but the Steam Boat Laura & Schr Caledonia
can take the Vera Cruzano and insists on the movement
He agrees to his opinion that it will be undertaken.

The citizens here generally are anxious that Bejar should
be taken, In this district of country we are united, and
are now Probably I shall have the Pleasure of seeing you
at the Consultation to which I am now in Nomination.

With the dearest interests of our Common
Country at heart. I am y. ever Sincere friend
& devoted Servant.
James W. Fannin

Labaca 29 Sept 1835

Mr. S. F. Austin

Sir

May Perkins leaves to day for your
Capital village we are quiet at this moment Send Cos at this time
So should most Positively be in Goliad on his way for Bejar
Austin On Sunday last yesterday left Hf c.n + + + + + ++
On yesterday morning I rec'd also information that 500
infantry & 4 left Saltillo 22 days ago for Bejar from
undoubted information, Send Cos is taking active measures
to Execute the orders of the Government,
Yours Friend & Humble Servant
P. Dimitt

P.S. Alvarez just returned on the 28 of last month
and has victorious information says that Tacatacas has
Again taken up Arms —.

[illegible] Co. of Infty of the
[illegible] Regt [illegible] Jan Feb / 1863

Enclosed six copies of letter this
[illegible] to case of said settlement, they speak
[illegible] Washington is burning and will
[illegible] be [illegible] as fast as possible the urgency of the occasion
[illegible] necessary to dispatch to the Potomac of the
Dept. Corps as the time for action, & return this from the
[illegible] Capt. Pierce will be aboard as soon as possible.

Also two letter proposes that one of the men-
[illegible] of each of the letter Committee of safety be granted to
[illegible] to the place until one months delay and return
[illegible] if a Regiment Counsel, such a measure is now deemed
to be indispensably necessary -

J. F. Chester Act Quarter

[illegible] Capt. [illegible] Co of
[illegible] Regt [illegible] MASS

Camp ails Potomac Oct 1863

Lt Col

Detachment of the Mississippi Troops
[illegible] Capt. [illegible] to about 150 men are now [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] attachment. Yesterday we
[illegible] [illegible] to Gen Hooker requesting permission
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] which [illegible] to Fire
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Yours Truly
Chas F. Chadbourn Jr
Capt Co A 1st Regt Mississippi Infty
Lieut Col Comdg 2nd Regt
Miss Brig

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

to what each one had &c. These new officers which Came with the Arms said that as soon as Gal C. should receive Bejar it would be assigned to Nuevo for San Felipe de Austin. I now think that is time to state Gal C. Cos could take him a prisoner to St Filipe, all this may be said to be different from what I proposed at Montagorda, but things have Changed also".

A Consultation was held this day at my house to day for the purpose of taking into view the Efficiency of sending on a detachment to intercept Col Cos. The Citizens were Requested to be present. Consultation that I was a candidate for the Confidence of not obtaining votes, but to this explanation of this being absent to Bexar, Cos Came with a guard of 30 men leaving the Mexican Battalion of Guerrero at his back, Since in his letter of the 25. stated that Cos had about 6,000 $ in specie for the purpose of paying off the Troops, We informed the Alcalde of the Arrival that it was intended to search Establishing Custom Houses &c, Quarantine &c &c &c, but things have Changed also.

At the Meeting at this place to day I was requested to suggest and recommend to the Committee of vigilance and Safety of San Filipe the Efficiency of a General Campaign against Bexar or Nacogdoches, also to request Stephen F. Austin Esqr. to return to the Committee of San Felipe Col Stephen Russell left here Yesterday for Montagorda and divided that in case of military Operations that the Plan of General Campaign and Rendezvous should be fully and Circumstantially designated, Capt. Alley (who on this letter Journey) informs that there is a deficiency of 15 Jeps in his Company and no possible means of supplying it on this section of the Country, Quere and Mr Mordecai's Communication to Settlement was discovered by Express on the last Evening, Capt Alley this Moment informed me that he had ordered his Company under his Command to meet at Mecllequis on the 5th of this month Armed and fully equipped and Provisioned to wait your orders Mr Mordecai now at my place, this Gentleman left Mexico on the 4th July last on his way to San Felipe, at which place you will no doubt see in a few days per this, Rumor says that Alvarez had a fight with one of Santa Annas Generals and that he was defeated, I saw the Son of Nicholas Garcia from Nacogdoches yesterday and a Gentleman from Monterey, who informed me the People in Texas and E. Mexico were moving and declaring for the Constitution of 1824.

Permit me to assure you of my distinguished Esteem and regard— James Kerr.

A. A. Allen

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Leand Mills

Velasco Sept 8th 1835.

Dear Sir

C. M. Lamar to J. Mills.

Letters have been received from Citizens resident at or near Copanes informing the citizens of Matagorda that the armed vessell recently fitted out in this port and was landing arms and ammunition, and that they were to wait the arrival of two vessels with four hundred troops which are expected here.

Gen. Mexia of Tobasco is on board and is to take the Expected force with what is at Copas is to form a small body guard with which he proposes visiting San Filipe. The object is said to raise a sufficient force to justify a reasonable belief that we can succeed in an Effort to secure at last the arms and ammunition, and if possible the Troops. Men know we are weak in numbers, but, thank God united in council, and firmly resolved to be free or die, Hence I am instructed by my fellow citizens to convey to our friends on Brazos and Bernard, the information of our consequent resolution and to ask their speedy and efficient coöperation. It is proposed to organize and collect the people of Brazoria, by Parish and rendezvous at Robicous ferry on the Colorado River on monday the 28 inst and proceed from thence to James Carrs residence on the Labaca, where further information will be received to guide our future operations.

We have only to ask of you and our friends to use your influence and accustomed diligence in soliciting volunteers and spreading intelligence as speedily as possible, also to send confidential messengers, to Columbia, Col. Austins settlement and San Filipe, the last named can be joined to Bastrop as Capt. Particularly anxious for some of the citizens to know and to Gonzales, Lieut. Col. Mercers & Alamo. Settlement will also have news and should not be neglected. I will attend personally at Matagorda & Bay Prairie to see that suitable steps and means are sent ahead to afford us information, expect which to me early, send copies of this to Archer, Wharton & McKinney, to Hall and Bingham, Fannin, Burke, & P.C. Jack to the Brazos &c.

Yr Friend &c.

W. H. Lamar Jr.

Col Austin

Banking green Sept 20 1835

J. Bingham to Austin

Dear Sir

I send you by the bearer Lieut for your information by my kinsman friend Wm Wharton the necessity of immediately collecting all the forces in our power to repel our Common and inveterate Enemy who is now about to land all the forces and arms the Can Louis to command. Effort to raise us

our of the County, Now is the time to try men and
see what Stuff they are made of, &c Come! Come!!
I am Just starting to the Mouth of the River to attend
to my Mennings Cattle, my Land Hands to protect the invaders
of our Country, Eyewitness, as I have just Received the
information, May the God of Armies Preserve our Undertaking
Best Respects to You

James Bingham

Velley
to
S. F. Austin

Matagorda Oct 2. 1835

Dear Sir

On reading Mr. Bingham this morning and reflecting on the movement of Cos, I think that it is very probable that he will not leave Labacca for several days and I have Concluded to send a man to ascertain that fact, and if I find that I will have time after the fifth to march on and intercept him on his march its Mr. Antonio I shall do so; this is for your consideration,

Yours Liberty & Independence
John Velley

(Col Stephen F. Austin)

San Felipe Oct 3 / 1835

I have this moment recd. your letter dated 2 inst. The Communications which were taken yesterday by Tho. Pettus and to day by Mr Perkins, will have informed you fully of the attack made on Gonzales, and that volunteers from every part of this Country have marched and are marching to that Point which is at Present the general rendezvous of the army of the People. Expresses have been sent to Trinity and to Nacogdoches and a large force is Expected from that Quarter, the Campaign is opened and it must not be closed until Bexar is taken and all the Mexican are driven from the Country

A report reached here that the volunteers from Columbia who were to rendezvous at Reed's had been turned back in Consequence of news recd. by them from Matagorda in Consequence of which I dispatched and Express to Columbia on receipt of the news of the attack on Gonzales, I also despatched the same to Matagorda and yesterday to La Bacca

Correct information as to the movements and numbers between Gonzales & La Bacca is very important. It is possible that the Cos may attempt a forced March to this place from Goliad in the absence of the men at Gonzales. It would be well to keep this within view, and to obtain Certain information, when the left Goliad and when the Morales Battalion have stopped, whether they went on to Bexar, or have remained

remained at Goliad. I expect the crew from Fabius Hamtramck would be up to-morrow or next day to this place and unless others will advise they will Continue on to Jno. Yoakum,

I regret that there are no guns to be had in this quarter for the supply of Captain Allens' Company, there is Eighteen Pounders at Matagorda which you can get by applying for it in my name to the Commander of that guard who by my information will have it subject to my order,

I shall despatch Ellis with the reinforcements Continue in my letter to Juan Pedro of the 26th Instant, I presume you will be a little surprised at Cannon information taken in Military orders to Pay Praise from which it will go to Washington Texas and Some who will not yet believe that you have Come on, And all the positive information you and Ellis subject in a letter signed by James Fannin, John Allen, George Sutherland & Some others who will known in order that it may be printed with the Signatures, the Printing Press will be ready to Print in this place to morrow or next Day Please Send me what you wish to have Published

James Fannin.
John Allen.

Yours Truly
J. W. Austin

Velasco 8th Oct 1835

Dear Sir

P. Quintero to Austin

Last night the Citizen Troops Eaten this Point, at 12. You will be a little surprised my letter directed to me from Mr John Austin the Custom house officer Goliad, Says the Colonel is a liberal man and has much influence in Matamoros, Says to me what new wars have, I am with Captain Ballowworth & remit you Some Pesos de Mexicanos) me Sent to enquire Information of Goliad, you was last respects to Mr Fannin and I would be Glad to have him

Your friend
P. Quintero

At Cap. Moores Colorado River Sept 29 1835.

Lt. Hood, the Inhabitants of Gonzales are leaving their Residences from the town, Mr Mitchell arrived yesterday at this River, Agents Hood "Have sent to demand the Cannon never Gonzales, they refused. in consequence they have sent 300 men to fetch it who are expected in Gonzales this Evening, that new we must, must with attack them tomorrow by way of assistance but help must be immediately sent us. now is the time to strike the Blow send on what you can as speedily as possible. Respt Geo. [illegible]

Bexar 18 Sept. 1835

Sir Courtney Captain Wiley Martin, Political Chief of the Municipality of Refugio &c.

E. Potter to Martin.

Dear Sir

I am most sincerely mortified, I had the honor to forward to you a copy and translation of a despatch received from the Secretary of State for the Municipality of Goliad. I am also encouraged for your address and safe deliverance to know that, disdaining for any Government or its functionaries any personal solicitude, you have only regarded the public interests and the duties of your office. Your intelligence of the action between the Steamboat and the Mexican Schooner received here on the 16 instant in a letter from Mr Austin of Journies to his son Albert, and it was adjudged by the Government, after consultation with the Americans in this place to make it known to the inhabitants of Velasco, by publication, the circumstances and request the original documents translated, in order that measures may be taken for the punishment of Captain Wiley Martin, if such course should be deemed necessary.

The intelligence of the action between the Steamboat and the Mexican Schooner received here on the 16 instant in a letter from Mr Austin of Journies to his son Albert, and it was adjudged by the Government, after consultation with the Americans in this place to make it known to the inhabitants of Velasco, by publication, the circumstances and request the original documents translated, in order that measures may be taken for the punishment of Captain Wiley Martin, if such course should be deemed necessary.

You have communicated and shall communicate, every proceeding with these Mexicans entirely to me, requisite for the benefit of it, and because such information might get out and be due to some other source, the situation will no doubt become critical by your communicating any one consequently beginning to depart hence, I have not yet determined what effect the intelligence that caused an alarm at will effect the settlers generally, it would (the Government) and recommend at Capt. with settlers and soldiers, since request no more troops be come on strength it is reported they are on their way Col is escorted by the 12th instant

The Celebration of the birth day took place here with considerable show, and the only two pieces of Cannon. Lewis could muster out for the occasion the other piece (Brass 18) being in want of Carriage.

A Governor has been appointed by the President, considered to be unconstitutionally so: his name is Rafael Vazquez, a Cousin of L. Rezones Vice Governor. I am in doubt whether this Political Chief will recognize the appointment, if any it is probable that he will be candid & himself compelled to do so under existing circumstances

Late from Mexico Came down to the 18th ult. The Chamber of Representatives have passed a bill which declares the present Congress to be invested with Powers for changing the system, and this will most likely ere become a law, Here will next see, if that change will go down. Gutierrez Estrada, late Secretary of State

resigned, because he is opposed to centralism. The Editorial articles of Cuna emanating from the Government praise the Colonies for their manifestations of peaceful disposition but they tell lies when they assert, as they do that the Colonies are disposed to adopt that form of Government which the Majority may choose to adopt, for no intimation has been made to them to that Effect.

A letter is in town which states that Zacatecas Guadalajara have pronounced in favour of Federalism or rather retreated from their previous "pronouncements" for centralism. Col Ugartechea has mentioned that his instructions only authorize him to prevent the location of 400 leagues granted by the Legislature.

Having nothing further of interest to communicate I subscribe myself

Your Ob. most obt Servt & friend
Edward Gritten

San Filipe Oct. 29. 1835

S.F. Austin Esq. This Committee have received and read with great satisfaction your General communication under dates of the 24 & 30th ult. It is highly gratifying that the People of Matagorda approve of the articles of this Committee of 19 & 20 inst. Similar manifestations of approbation and more have been received from. Every Quarter of this County Public Opinion as expressed and found upon the same basis, the whole country is in motion for the frontier and the utmost confidence and enthusiasm prevails in all. There is now but one Spirit, one mind- one object- to drive the Military out of Texas, and organize a Government for this country, the Head Quarters are now at Gonzales and all are directed to that point in order to attack Bejar.

This Committee recommend prudence as to the ammunition at that place, the Publication which that Committee. Proceedings will inform the enemy that there is such a deposit there and they may send in Boats from Lavaca armed vessels to take or destroy it.

There is as yet no legal acknowledged head and consequently there is some want of concert, but events and a common purpose will shortly this defect until the convention meets and makes a declaration and organizes a head. The common Purpose at this time is to take Bexar and drive the Military out of Texas. Enclosed is the last dispatch from Gonzales, it speaks for itself.

Committee of
Matagorda

Respectfully Your obt Servt
S.F. Austin Agent

Brazoria September 25th 1835

To Lieut Col F. Sachis Chairman of the committee of Safety of the Jurisdiction of Austin.

Sir

Your Communications by Express of the 22d instant were received last evening and in conformity with your recommendations a Packer for Volunteers was started. and in the town of Brazoria, Twenty five Enrolled their names to rendezvous at Leagues Old Place and the Columbia Rifles are the only Volunteer Company that have yet been raised from the town Columbia, Velasco and other Parts of this Jurisdiction where Troops. Three companies will be raised, one full Complement that this Jurisdiction will send say at least Fifty volunteers to Leagues Old Place on the Caranaio River by the 1st October next. Should any thing occur, that Effort will be Stored on our Part to organize as respectable an Expedition as Possible to the invading army, The negro Population have here Excited much Disturbances, and have recommended a vigilent Patrole, and this is a Subject wholly of the Serious consideration of your Committee

Yours &c.

J. B. Brazoria Chr.

Guadeloupe July 30th 1835

Dear Sir

Enclosed you have Proof Copies of Circulars that we may Circulate from these Parts, all that I can say for is that Provident Fears should sometimes permit to reach Texas, as it will Cause much Trouble if ever discovered otherwise, But in either Case must ever just Cause will overcome all this & Taken in time and one thing is certain that the Spirit of Liberty & Love of Country is Roused in the Mexican Nation, and have determined to Gladly with Unconquerable Arm regain them, and the Citizens of Texas in Particular are in Readiness, if any defence is to be made that is the Spot and Place and the Road to the United States and it will be impossible to Cut off our Great Government. Sir Sab, is the one that gave the order for the shooting of Travers, I am sorry to say that the well disposed Mexicans have lost much of their Spirits in the Commissions, they can not be nearly Imposable that Government have known the Intentions of the Anna Party since that they Crossed the Colorado and of the Country Dr. Neus Lives for little or no Cause & worthy, & the Country be Peaceable with a Force from Savage Extermination, God only Knows what will result with no Particulars in the Provinces, I have all hope in the Patriotism of the Colonists, with every Prayer for your & the Cause good, I Remain Sir &c.

John J. Linn

[4]

Gradeloupe August 1. 1835

I Claim
To
J. Rus

Dear Sir

Since my last I have had more news from Goliad all of which goes to show what sort of a Brute this new-Commander is Linnets de Leon from Cane Ei nessecos that he let fall in presence of the Col. was on the point of going to the Calabooze, he was ashamed to acknowledge it when you was here, Benafacio Rodeniques had his fine Blanket taken by the would be Nero (!) or his own fewiw, and his last act was to Zacatano (the collector) he told him about 9 o'clock at night that on the following morning he would answer for Bexar and at 8 o'clock he would have Cane $ 5,000 Zacatano told him that it was impossible, Lt. Col. told him finally that if the money was not ready for him at the time appointed he, Zacatano, should have to go a prisoner on foot to Bexar, the money was obtained & Lieut. Col. Gilpin, he told in Public at Goliad that in one month or less that he would have the pleasure of taking and burning San Filipe de Austin and would leave every habitation on the road from Bexar to the former place, so much for the good intentions of the Government as it is called, Messrs. Breckin and Andrew Scott passed here yesterday from Zacatecas, the news that they bring goes to confirm my former opinion respecting the stand that we ought to take and which will result in an immediate reaction, all Mexico is looking to Texas and we have the constant prayer of all the Liberal part. I believe that Mr. Barker will go immediately to St Filipe he says that not a moment ought to be lost as no doubt that if we let them in among us that they will attempt to disarm us as they have done elsewhere, in Zacatecas they took away 15 00 Stands of Private Arms and there treatment during the 2 days here Foreigners were very Rarely Pointed and it would make your hair raise to hear the particulars But as Mr. B. I hope will go to St Filipe I omit informing you of. I have heard from Bexar, the People have still some hopes of our moving to their assistance, There had like to have been a serious affair a few nights since in Bexar on the arrival of the Companies from La Punta de Lampasas and some others of Rio Grande they had a grand Ball (all Soldiers) in consequence of some difference about the Etiquette of the dances the Troops of Bexar and Rio Grande took sides against them of Lampasas & others, and intended to go at immediate work and party cut and Cuted and the others at theirs the citizens thinking that the Troops were going to disarm them, flew to arms and had all the Streets Blocked up in a moment, the officers ran from one party to another and begged for Gods sake to stop and finally succeeded in smoothing all parties, the citizens seem Determined to form resolutions to die before their arms will be taken from them and they are well armed the Company of Gonzales will return in a day

or two and they have said that they will not fight against the citizens and it is currently reported that those of Bejar have the sentiments I think it would be useless for your Lady to stir. More than 3 or 4 days in determining what to do for 10 days Bejar could have been taken with 250 men and now it wants 600 so much for delays and so it will progress if time is not taken by the fore lock, the fact is, resistance ought to have been given to the Governor when he asked it, look at the result this act of the Chief of department of Brazos has dispersed us of a government and is head to guide our present crisis, since my commencing this letter, Manuel Cabayal has returned from goliad this morning, the Col. has given an order to fill this Company out of Goliad all that can put off are dangerous a price is said to be offered for J M J. Cabayal's head if not taken alive the Col has dropped some severe Expressions against the Navarros and others of Bejar who he knows to be liberals. the Little general begins to grin big talk again I am told, It took 20 carts to carry the baggage of these 183 men some 4 or 5 are for the Col. alone who no doubt has from 10 to 20,000 $ with him, what a fine Fall this would be for us to take this fellow and his ill gotten treasure, they say that he is beating and abusing the Curtain because they cannot muck the iron fly from such Rubbis, I do say truly, O Lord deliver us and protect us

Hoping this may find you in as good health as —

James Kerr.

John Linn

Guadeloupe de Nelonco July 19 1835

To his Excellency J. T. Mills

Same Chief of the Department de los Brazos

To Same

Permit me to take the liberty of addressing you, although not personally acquainted and not living in your department, but in the present critical state of our State affairs we must have some fountain for resource and direction and inasmuch as our Chief of Department is not able to do much however willing, the general consent of opinion seems to look to you as may be said as Principal for guidance in the momentous question that now must soon be determined, either by Patriotism courage in the path of Military destinies or bravely stand and defend our just rights for it is beyond doubt that Santa Anna is determined to try his fortune by succeeding to Subdue Texas as he has Zacatecas and accordingly has ordered it is true that Santa Anna has not declared himself openly, but look to the acts of his minions and particularly the principal one, General Cos, who has-

informed our Governor and some of the Members of the assembly and held them to be tried by a Military tribunal as soon as are can be formed, or as soon as they are sure of the reduction of Texas, Gen. Cos has ordered the Authorities of Matamoras Reynosa Comargo Mier Revilla to declare for a Central Government and Santa Anna Supreme Dictator, as soon as he obtained this he gave orders for the portion of the Militia in each place, but fortunately the Resolutions adopted by this and last Town, & a great portion of them are in this District, Learned for the intentions of Santa Anna and Paid all orders that have come to Gobiad Santa Anna is in Matamoras this day and will Embark so soon as possible all his disposable troops for this Coast with the Exception of 400 for Guanhuato, the latter Effect are or will be landed in a few days, The whole amount of troops will be from 4000 to 5000, and Bexar is to be the principal depot, the last news that our has disturbed the people very much is that it is the intention of Santa Anna to Collect the Soldiers in the People by placing 6 in each family in relation with their Boarding mooring and lodging at the Expence of the individuals, 2 or 300 are actually arrived and are now in Potosi and will march for Bexar in a few days under the Command of a Col. who is to relieve Ugartichea, the latter I was informed by the Commandant at Gobiad was not considered by Santa Anna as a whole hog man which caused his removal, thus stands the affairs as far as Certain information has been made Known to me.

I have been requested to write you and state the views of the Majority of the people of this district who have come to the resolution that if they are assisted by the other Colonies to march immediately and Retake Texas, men, Gobiad and Bexar, in fact every more prompt measures and cut the reconsideration of this detail as they have to Cause in Small numbers the object can easily be effected as the situation of the Country and the passes affords the greatest advantages for our efforts, Let it be no longer said that the Land Speculations were the primary cause of the arrest of our public authorities for let any disposition to discover look at the Letters of ours, he will see that we have orders to arrest, and have given his orders accordingly to the officers of the different stations, to arrest them so soon as they attempted to move, for Ltd Zacatecas, Durango and Chihuahua, I dare not was I consent to have the United disbanded, as that was the object intended to pave the way to the intentions to Establish Dictatorship with least opposition, I shall be happy to hear from you upon the receipt of this and to know your opinion, I have just one more remark, — That something must be done, and that quickly before all the troops arrive, if they are permitted to land among us it will cost much trouble, and more it will cost money comparatively, + + + + + + + + + + + I recommend the propriety of sending with as much attention those who have fled their homes & come among us for protection, many of them have brought with them their horses in order to save them from the Enemy Respy Yrs

J. F. Linn

Camp at Gonzales
Oct 11th 1835

General S. F. Austin
Sir

Quarters of the Council of the

I am instructed to inform you that an order was on this day issued by this council, calling on the Captains of Each Company to hold an election for a commander in chief of the Volunteer forces of Texas now assembled at this point- that that Election was accordingly held at 4 o'clock of this present day, and that by the returns, made to this board of the Elections held in the different Companies by the Captains thereof It appears that you have been chosen without opposition, Commander in Chief of the Volunteer Army of Texas now in the field- the Members of this board take this occasion to Congratulate you on the high office to which you have been called, relying in command with all their fellow citizens upon the Skill and Courage with which you will endeavor to conduct the campaign to the desired result

I am. with the highest Respect,
Your friend & fellow Citizen
P. W. Grayson Presidt
of the Council.

Wm. J. Linch
Secretary.

Communications to General Council and Governor, Refered to the Council

By Express

To the Provisional Government of Texas, San Filipe de Austin
San Antonio de Bexar, Thursday 6 P.M.
January 28th. 1836

Gentlemen

A friend to the cause of Texas who arrive yesterday from the Villitia de Rio Grande, whom I conceive to be a good man has communicated to me the following intelligence of the enemies movements to which I deem sufficient importance to transmit by Express to the Provisional Government as deemed prima facie entitle, & to credit.

The Commander in Chief, General Ramirez y Sesma) of the army of the Centralists destined to operate against Texas, has accumulated at Rio Grande, 1600 infantry and 600 Cavalry of the Mexican Line Troops, 80 Mexican and 400 recruits with Artillery and baggage, including 3000 mules loaded of flour, 300 Cargas of biscuit &c. &c. two Mortars and 6 pieces of artillery supposed to be twelves and have sent to Dr Reales' Colony of Dolores, for two boats to ascend the Rio Grande for the purpose of taking up their provisions into the Colonies, which in Ramirez y Sesma's language and to be Exterminated if they offer any re-

A forced loan of one per cent had been imposed upon all property and lives made of horses, mules, oxen waggons corn &c in order to fit out the Expedition, even women had been embodied to grind the corn and prepare the bread for the invading army, and the country presented a scene of Extortion and oppression, which when inflicted upon friends and Countrymen, one may expect to behold inflicted with double vigor upon ourselves, Extraordinary measures of severity were adopted towards those guilty of Extortion of which Same Symptoms had been manifested, and on the day of my informants departure three were to be shot for that offence, The roads between this and Rio Grande, which is formable, are now good as the season there has been a dry one.

As I expect the Enemy to be on the point of commencing this March, I intend sending out two men as a Spy to reconnoiter and on the arrival of Col. Travis and his men I shall also dispatch them to cut off their supplies, a policy I conceive to be at this junctures most Expedient as by depriving the Enemy's troops of their provisions & of the means of progressing they will become discouraged and be induced to return, The least Misfortune that may befall from this Place will be productive of the best effects, I shall instruct Col. Travis to cut down the bridges over the Leona and Nueces to embarrass the Enemy in crossing those Streams, with the men, say 20, under that officer command the force of this ground will consist of 130 Americans and with 60 or to 1000 men I can oppose an effectual resistance.

On My Couriers arrival from San Filipe minds became excited and the Resolutions sent out were the result. But Fellow Citizens, The time has now arrived, and a decision is to be come this day, settled in the affairs of our adopted Country in which domestic dissentions should be hushed and honour should be the watchword United, The attempts of the Enemy can be baffled even if Santa Anna with his 3-000 men to cross our Texas army must again advance to action, and this victory will secure us forever from the attack of Invasion and our Existence will no longer be doubtful but prosperous and glorious to attain to desireable an End, I am ready to sacrifice my all, and if as I expect even citizens of this County and our co labrators from the United States are animated by the same Spirit, Liberty will be compelled to acknowledge us as her favorites, from the time of my taking the field in the defence of Texas Liberties up to the present moment, my labours and watchfulness have been unremitting and they shall continue to be so until I see the land of my adoption free—

I have respectfully to advise that the efforts of the Government be all concentrated and directed to the support and preservation of this town that supplies of Beef, Pork, Flour, Salt be be forthwith forwarded, and if Waggons cannot be procured let as

much as possible cuin by land, men, money, rifles and cannon powder and also necessary, I shall consult with some of the influential Mexicans known to be attached to our cause, about obtaining the effectual assistance of those citizens of whom I judge that they would join us if they entertained reasonable expectations of reinforcements -

I remain Respectfully
Your Obd. Humble Servant
J. C. Neal Lt 2d U.
Cand Bexar.

Velasco Nov. 18. 1835

Edwd Hall
&
Hunter

Wm. H. Cazy Smith
Dear Sir

After making all possible haste to Execute the commission imposed on me by the Convention, I arrived here just in time to get wrecked on board the Schr. Columbus, which went on shore about half a mile east of this place, another vessel is preparing and will probably sail in 3 days from this time, when I also in hopes to be on my way to New Orleans, to quit the impatience that must exist among our friends. Victoria was seen last Evening just below the mouth of the Bernard and this morning Mor Mills Schr from New York arrived off this Bar and of course is safe from Capture (loaded with goods) The importance of having Some vessel visited off this coast must be obvious I am therefore in Hopes to receive a commission for Wm. Allen with all the instructions necessary before I leave, which can be done by Express, The instructions must be to board and take as large any vessel under the Mexican flag, so that the prizes will amply compensate the captors to designate our flag it has been suggested that 1824 be added in large figures to the present flag 1824 the Commission ask for by Mr. Allen is intended for St. Hardy it would therefore be better to leave it Blank to be filled up on my arrival at New Orleans

Very Respectfully I have the
Honor to Be &c.
Edwd. Hall.

Velasco Oct 29th 1835

Mr. E. M. Wyatt, President of the Council of Texas,

McKinney & Wms
&
R. R. Royall

Dear Sir

The Mexican Guard is off this place; has been seen yesterday and the day previous, fired one shot at Velasco which fell short of the Town, four more fired at her from Shore, none however took effect it has made her become tired cold in her movements, yesterday she appeared bent at a very respectful distance,

I would therefore say by all means go & take her, &

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one day, and so we will endeavor to do at all hazards, but really we find ourselves in a very awkward situation for the want of authority upon which to act for many of the most efficient men we have, our citizens of the United States who may be brought to an account there and charged with piracy, But for the present we are blind to all other considerations save that of letting the Mexicans rest whose only hope in my opinion for Escape is in the Gulf,

The Government will doubtless send a Steam force to occupy our Coast & cut off our supplies & intercourse with the United States, if they can succeed almost total ruin will be the consequence this fact is self evident & requires no reason to be set forth. Now what can we do, protect ourselves and the Country against such a calamity I would beg leave to suggest that the most active and Energetic measures on our part are requisite to counteract the advantage which the Government of Saint Domingo has over us by having armed vessels already on the Gulf & some of them actually in our Ports Saint Domingo Sent all of his naval forces here and have a body of men which under existing circumstances is altogether possible, mean with them remedy. But to come to the point we are aiming at are, Would it not be well for the Executive to make a declaration against the Central Government and issue commissions for armed vessels, & let them be taken them by Captain Reed & Lawless & in this mode or at least further our Coast will be cleared and our intercourse with the United States free, and our supplies can be had speedily & abundantly to carry on the war, Captain Williams Abbud, Lt. Charles Fenby of the U.S. Navy Comr. Aulsdorffe Jno Chase are well ready to Embark in this business the character of them all we presume is sufficiently known to you, they are unexceptionable in our humble opinion, and will do honor to any cause, Abbud & Aulsdorff are here and will aid us in any attempt to take the Mexican vessel that is off, and will await here to hear from you, to ascertain if Commissions will be sent down for them, we earnestly beg if possible that you send them, for on it Entirely depends our every Success, should the Commissions be sent you will please send instructions what kind, what amount of Stores for the Army, in what quantities & where the same are to be landed, as the weather may be bad and consequences difficult, Perhaps this time we would suggest the propriety of landing near and in Pass at La Vaca, this is for your consideration and we wait your order

Yrs Truly

C. Williams & Williams

Since writing the above we have understood to the Safety of our Country

James P. Caldwell

Eli ...

A. E. Mastell

R. H. Reed

James King Jr

John Williams

Octobr 30. 1835

Gonzales 25 February 1836

To the Governor and Council of Texas

By Express from San Antonio under date of the 23d instant I have received information that 2000 Mexicans under the Command of Ligera have arrived in that place and are in possession of the Public Cannon, Compelling our Troops (150 in number) to retire to the Alamo the American Troops are determined to defend the place to the last and have called upon their fellow Citizens for aid under the 4th rule of instructions to me dictated by your Excellency dated the 15th day of the Present Month, I have written the following communication to Capt. J. J. Hamlinson Commanding the first detachment of the Ranging Corps

Sir

Information directed from San Antonio under date of Yesterday is Calculated to call forth the United Efforts of all. Two Thousand Troops under the Command of Ligera have arrived in that place and are in possession of the Public Cannon, Compelling our Troops (150 in number) to retire to the Alamo where they are at Present and determined to remain until death or victory, they implore aid from their fellow Citizens and solicit it Speedily - Provisions and men is the cry, on the frontiers of Colorado Says? are there no hostile Indians lurking materially upon the frontier of Texas, If there be none you will forthwith fall down to Bastrop and wait further orders from me it would be well for the Inhabitants of Bastrop to Keep out Scouts in the direction of San Antonio lest a foraging party of Mexican Cavalry surprise them, every mark of ground must be ascertained by us until you can communicate and march against and quell them - If the Indians are disposed to be troublesome on the frontiers I want suggest to the Settlers the propriety of concentrating in the different Settlements and build Block Houses or forts for their better defence, in the morning I will proceed to Gonzales and will advise and Command what I conceive best to be done on this frontier, The information comes via Egbert from Col Travis and may be relied on, So for the present and act from this under the instructions herein contained, with Sentiments of regard I am yours

To

Col J. J. Hamlinson

R. M. Williamson

Maj. Cavalry &c

The foregoing Communication I have caused to be forwarded by Express and not doubting but no Exertions on my part will be wanting to give the contented protection to our fellow Soldiers in the Alamo, Citizens of Texas Arouse, Save your Country and your liberties, all that may act and act in unison, I am in haste Respectfully your obt Servt

R. M. Williamson

Lt. Col. Ran.

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Georgia City of Macon
Nov 21. 1835

To the Provisional Government of Texas,

The Citizens of Macon deeply sympathizing with you in your gallant struggle against Mexican Tyranny and oppression have appointed us a committee to express to you their feelings in your behalf When your appeal first reached us, calling for aid, our fellow townsmen Col Wards the town of Vic, gallantly stepped forward, offered his own services and enlisted about fifty men to march with him in your defence, they commenced their march this day when they reach Texas Col Ward will make a declaration of himself & his men to your service, all that we deem it necessary to say is that they are brave men & worthy to fight in the cause of freedom and to represent the wish of Col Ward. that you will permit them to occupy such posts, where most danger is to be met and most honor now, With prayers for your success

We are your friends &c.
Robt Auf Beall
Robert Collins
Levi Eckley
Thos G Wade

Committee of Macon.

Commandancy of Bexar
January 23rd 1836

To
To the Governor & Council
San Felipe de Austin

H.C. Wells
To
Council

Sirs

I hasten to inform you that a courier has arrived here last night in twenty days from St. Louis Potosi dispatched by Colonel Navarro to his brother bringing intelligence that Santa Anna has arrived at Saltillo with three thousand troops, also that there are at the town of Rio Grande Sixteen hundred more and that he makes Saltillo his head Quarters for the present, and further that he is instructed by the Government to raise forthwith 10,000 in such manner as he may think proper, and proceed against Texas which he says he will reduce to the State it originally was in 1820. I was also or at least Col. Bury was informed yesterday confidentially by the Priest of this Place who is a staunch Republican that it was the intention of Santa Anna to attack Coahuila & Zacatecas first & send first a few hundred cavalry against this place at the same time.

If Texas could be obtained here by any means to remove the Garrison and Public property I would immediately destroy the fortifications and abandon this Place, during the mean time I have under me encamped here, to join the Commander

in Chief at Copanac, of which I informed him last night, & immediately on the above information being Communicated to me. The foregoing information is received that such a Channel that the most implicit reliance may be given to its correctness & veracity, as the parties are personally known to Colo Bacy and he says deserving the utmost confidence.

Respectfully, Your obedient Servant
P. C. Neill
Commanding
Lieut Col. Cav. Corps

Nacogdoches Dec 23d 1835

Hon Lt. Gov. James W Robinson
Lt Governor and President of Council

John Forbes
To
J. W. Robinson

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance, Mr. James Clark of Pecan Point Red River and who has been appointed by a Committee of the Citizens of that Portion of the County to represent their interests at St Filipo, you will find him a very intelligent Gentleman, very conversant with the interests of Red River and Texas Generally and truly desirous of promoting the welfare of the Colonists and County.

I had the pleasure of receiving by Captain Jones last evening a copy of the Resolutions for a General Convention, I am having it printed in hand bill form for the purpose of widely diffusing it among the People and as soon as I receive the Governor Proclamation, I will in accordance with the resolutions, issue writs of Election to the several Precincts

On account of the increased population of Red River, as you will be fully informed of by Mr Clark, it would be very desirable to have more than one Municipality in that section, I am of opinion three municipalities or Jurisdictions could be formed that and which would entitle them to a representation of six members in the General Convention. I should be gratified to receive from the Council, to organize two additional Municipalities on Red River, that the Settlers there be fully represented in that Body.

It has been truly gratifying to every Lover of his Country to learn the fall of San Antonio and of its being delivered of the presence of every foreign Enemy - Texas stands forth disenthralled freeborn, and can now take her rank among the nations as such, and can legitimately make such arrangements with other powers as will secure and perpetuate it

All that is to be feared is interminable dissensions arising from the efforts of Speculators who will be watching in their Efforts to get the property of the Public and Colonists in their grasp in this moment of Joy I will try to forget them for the present, and look only on the bright side of the Picture and think of Texas.

as it deemed, and will be necessary, Independent Commissioners, Instructions Provided for such a Treaty communication

Remain Truly Yours

John Forbes

Copy Recipe de Correction Dec. 2d 1835

To the Provisional Government of Texas

S.F. Austin
To
Pro. Govt.

I have the honor to lay before the Provisional Government of Texas an important official communication from the Minister of War in the City of Mexico addressed to Genl. Cos, dated 30th Oct. which was intercepted near Reyes

These documents inform Genl Cos of the measures which the Government of Mexico have adopted against Texas, that Govt. places the Texas War on the footing of a national War against foreigners and adventurers, whose object is to dismember the Mexican Territory &c &c.

An Army of 10,000 men is ordered to be organized immediately under the Command of Genl Santa Anna in Person, Genl Ramirez y Sesma is the second in Command, and several other Generals are designated to Command divisions. The preparations of money to raise arms, equips and transport this Army are liberally made. The regiments and other Corps to compose it are designated amongst them is one Regiment at Campeche which is 1000 men strong, arms are ordered to be manufactured and repairs and Ammunitions provided in every City, Town, or place in the nation where there are any means of doing it Bordas of Mexitias are ordered to be organized volunteers are called for the Ports of Campiche and Matamoras are ordered to be forfeited, $ 200,000 are placed at the sole disposition of Genl. Santa Anna to be used as he thinks proper, in short precautions are ordered which, if carried into effect will put an army of 10 000 men in Texas and a number of armed vessels are ordered by the month of February next.

This approaching Storm is of a serious nature, should the Government succeed in giving to this war a national character as they are attempting, Texas will have to contend against the whole nation United, that such a character will be given to it, is at least to be feared for the reason that this declaration made by the General Convention, is ambiguous, and does not Express adhesion to the Constitution of 1824 and to the federal System in those positive and unconditional terms which are necessary to inspire full confidence, some of the subsequent measures are also of an ambiguous character, the Manner in which Gen. Bravo and his companions have been seized will also have its effect, in short this intervention has gone abroad that the object is misunderstood, this being the case there is some

danger to say the least of it that the Texas war will assume the character which the Government are endeavoring to gain it

Under this view of the subject it is evident that the most prompt and efficient measures must be adopted to prepare for the approaching storm either by the most close and perfect and unprincipled union & co operation with the remnants of the Federal party (which in my opinion was the true position that Texas ought to have taken) and the one which was taken by the people at their primary meetings last Summer and fall and which has been and is now defended and sustained by the army of volunteers) or by a resort to natural rights by a direct declaration of Independence, the circumstances certainly require that the position of Texas should be clearly defined unequivocal and positive, An organization as a member of the Mexican confederation under the Constitution and laws of 4 May 1824 or a declaration of Independence would place it upon such a position, The first of these positions I have always believed to be the proper one, and public opinion last Summer & fall expressed itself decidedly in favor of it Should the Mexican confederation fall and cease to exist the Union of Texas to that confederation would of course also cease to exist, and she would be left by the result of the unjust and unconstitutional Revolution which the Central party have promoted and sustained in Mexico, to herself with the legal and natural right to provide for herself as she thot proper.

But can either of these two positions be taken without a resort to the People by the Election of a convention with full powers and in which the Representation will be equal so far as possible in proportion to the Population?

At the time of the former Elections the people did not and would not and could not fully understand their Situations for it was not known then to a certainty that Changes would take place in Mexico, what Kind of Government would be established; or what Course would be pursued towards Texas, It was only known then that the Central party were in power, that all their measures tended to the destruction of the federal System and that preparations were making to invade Texas,

But at the present time the People know that the Case is changed, that Centralism is established by the deed of 3rd act last, and that they are threatened with annihilation, in short the whole picture is now clearly before their view, and they see the danger that dangers are hanging over them, Can these changes be meeted by a provisional organization which is based upon a declaration that is equivocal and liable to different constructions? Does not the Situation of the country require a more fixed and stable State of things? In short, is it not necessary that Texas should say in plain and positive & unequivocal language what is the position she occupies & will occupy, and what

such a declaration be made without a new and direct resort to the people by calling as speedily as possible a convention with plenary powers based upon the principle of equal representation in proportion to the populations?

There are questions of the most vital importance I respectfully submit them to the calm deliberations of the Provisional Government in the full confidence that all the attention will be given to the subject which its importance merits.

Without Expressing any individual opinion of my own as to the time or day when the new Elections ought to take place, which would perhaps be needless in such a communication as this the object of which is to lay facts upon the provisional Government. I deem it to be my duty to say that so far as I could Judge of the opinions and wishes of the citizens who were in the volunteer army when I left them on the 25 ult. they were in favor of an immediate election of a convention with plenary powers

All of which is most respectfully submitted by your most obedient and humble Servant

S. F. Austin

P.S.

Inadvertently omitted to state that the correspondence which presented were interrupted by Juan Seguin's company of volunteer Mexicans, this company and its commander have been very active and efficient, and I cheerfully recommend them to the Govt. as patriotic citizens and soldiers

S. Austin

San Filipe de Austin Nov 30 1835

To the Provisional Government
of Texas

Same
to
Same

I have the honor to report to the Provisional Government that in obedience to the call of the Representatives of the people met in General consultation, a few days since a commissioner to proceed to the U.S. of America, I left the Volunteer army that is besieging Bexar on the 25. and arrived at this place last night and am ready to serve the Country in the station which has been assigned to me.

Col. Edward Burleson was elected by the volunteers comprising the army to succeed me in the Chief Command I have the satisfaction to say that the patriotism which drew together the gallant volunteers now in service before Bexar and at Goliad is unabated. They left all the comforts & endearments of home to defend their constitutional rights and the Republican principles of the Federal System and Constitution of 1824. and the vested rights of Texas under the

law of 7th May of that year. Their basis is the Constitution and the Federal Sistem, but should these be destroyed in Mexico and the decree of 3° of October last passed by the Central Party (a copy of which is herewith presented) be carried into effect, and a central and despotic government established whereall the authority is to be concentrated in one person or in a few persons in the City of Mexico, sustained by Military and Ecclesiastical power, the volunteer army will also in that event do their duty to their country - to the cause of Liberty and to themselves, as honor, patriotism, and the first law of Nature may require.

That every people have the right to change their Government, is unquestionable; but it is equally certain and true, that this change be morally or Politically obligatory must be Effected by the free Expression of the will of the community and by legal and Constitutional means; for otherwise the Stability of Governments and the rights of the people would be at the Mercy of fortunate revolutionists, of violence or faction, admitting therefore that a Central and despotic Strong Government is best adapted to the Education and habits of a portion of the Mexican people, and that they wish it, this does not and cannot give to them the right to dictate by unconstitutional means and force, to the other portion who have equal rights and differ in opinion,

Had the change been effected by Constitutional means or had a national Convention been convened and every member of the confederacy been fairly represented, and a majority agreed to the change, it would have placed the matter on different ground but even then, it would be monstrous to admit the principle, that a Majority have the right to destroy a minority, for the reason that self preservation is superior to all political obligation.

That such a Government as is contemplated by the before mentioned decree of 3° October, would destroy the people of Texas, must be evident to all, when they consider its geographical situation, so remote from the contemplated centre of legislation and power, populated as it is by a people who are so different in Education, habits customs, language and so cut Texas from all the rest of the nation, and especially when a portion of the Central Power, have manifested violent Religious and other prejudices and jealousies against them. But no national convention was convened and the constitution has been and is violated and disregarded,

The Constitutional authorities of the State of Coahuila & Texas solemnly protested against the change of Government for which act they were driven by Military force from office and imprisoned, The people of Texas protested against it as they had a right to do for which they

been declared rebels by the Government in Mexico,

Whenever we withdraw from the lands established by the decree of 3d of October every day's interval will more and more give to other parts of Mexico it is attempted to be effected by force and unconstitutional means, Texas implicated it may be to same parts of Mexico it would be ruinous to Texas, This view of the Matter presents the whole subject to the people, if they submit to a foreign and unconstitutional destruction of the decree which they have, sworn to support they violate their oaths, if they submit to be basely destroyed they disregard their duty to themselves and violate the first law which God stamped upon the heart of Man, civilized or Savage, which is the Law, or the Law of the right of self preservation.

The decree of the 3d of october therefore if carried if carried into effect evidently leaves no remedy for Texas but resistance, Secession from Mexico and a direct resort to natural rights,

Such I believe to be the view which the volunteer Army late under My Command have taken of this subject and such, in substance the principles they are defending and will defend. That they are sound and just and permit the application of impartial men of all nations, I sincerely and conscientiously believe,

It may be out of place to speak of myself in such a communication as this, but I deem it to be due to say, that I have faithfully laboured for years to unite Texas permanently to the Mexican Confederation by attaching it to a, local government and internal administration as far as practicable from every other part of Mexico, and to identify it in the hands of the People of Texas, who are sufficiently intelligent to appreciate and to defend their own local rights and could best superintend its legislation for them, There was but one way to effect this union with any hope of permanency or security, and that was by attaching Texas into a State of the Mexican Confederation, I found Policy and the true interests of the Mexican Republic evidently required that this should be done, The people of Texas desired it, and if proper management, but they are not, of this fidelity to their obligations as Mexican Citizens, This effort to erect Texas into a State of the Mexican Confederation became unpopular with the Texian people of the Revolutionary party and the true friends

Therefore in uniting a Seperation from Coahuila and the creation of this Country into a State was to avoid a total Seperation from Mexico & revolution, for the Coahuila nor any other portion of the Mexicans can legislate on the internal affairs of Texas— It is impossible— This Country must either be a State of the Mexican Confederation, or must seperate in toto or an independent Country, or seek protection from some Power that recognizes the principles of self Government, I can see no remedy between one of these three positions, and Total ruin.

I must particularly call the attention of the provisional government to the Volunteer Army now in the field, that this Services have been and now are in the highest possible degree useful & important to Texas is very evident, had this Army not crossed the River Guadeloupe, a movement which some have condemned, the war would have been carried by the Centralists into the Colonies, and the settlements on Guadalupe and La vaca would probably have suffered & perhaps been destroyed. The Town of Gonzales had already been attacked and many of the Settlers were about to remove. What effect such a state of things would have had upon the moral Standing and Interests of the Country, at this a matter of opinion, is worthy of mature consideration: and more especially when it is remembered that at that time the objections of many were vacillating and unsettled, & much dissension prevailed. The volunteer Army have also paralized the power of Gen. Cos. so that it is shut up within the fortifications of Bexar in capable of any hostile movement whatever, outside the walls, and must shortly surrender or be annihilated. The Enemy has been beaten in every contest and skirmish, which has proven the superiority of the volunteers, and given confidence to every one, Our undisciplined volunteers, but few of whom were ever in the field before have acquired some Experience & much confidence in each other and in themselves, and are much better prepared for organization and to meet a formidable attack than they ever before,

The post at Goliad has been taken by the volunteers and the Army deprived of Cannon and Stores which were at that place, and of the facilities of procuring others by water from the part of Cuspcan which is closed upon them by the occupation of Goliad. The Enemy has been driven from the River Aneces by a detachment of the volunteers who garrison Goliad Goliad, and by the patriotic aid of Ireland from Panna on More than one hundred of the enemy including many officers have been Killed, a great many have been wounded, other Prisoners, one valuable piece of brass Cannon a Six pounder has been taken and another preserved, the one that was at Goliad) from falling into the hands of the Enemy, three hundred head of horses have been taken and the resources for sustaining an army in Bexar

all destroyed or exhausted, so that an enemy in that place is at this time more than three hundred miles from any supplies of bread stuffs and many other necessary articles, all this has been effected by the volunteer army in a little more than one month, and with the loss of only one man Killed in Battle & one wounded, who has nearly recovered, before Bejar, one wounded at Goliad, and one at Refugio an Success. In short the Moral and political influence of this campaign is equally beneficial to Texas, and to the Sacred Cause of the Constitution and of Liberty and honorable to the volunteer army is encomposed principally of the most intelligent respectable and worthy citizens of this country and of volunteers from Louisiana and Alabama, of men who have taken up arms from principle, from a sense of duty and from the purest motives of Patriotism and Philanthropy they have bravely sustained the rights of Texas and the Cause of Rational Liberty, and patiently bore the exposure and fatigue of a rigorous Campaign, during the most inclement wet, and cold Spell of weather I have seen in this country for many years, The most of them are men of families whose loss would have made a fearful void in our little community They might have been precipitated from the fortifications of Bejar which were defended by seven or eight hundred men and a number of Cannon and taken the place by storm against superior numbers, and Texas might and in all probability would have been covered with mourning in the hour of victory, On consultation with the officers in Councils of War, it was deemed most prudent not to hazzard so much in the Commencement of the Contest, when a disaster would have been so materially injurious, and the System was adopted of wasting away the resources and Spirits & numbers of the enemy by a Siege, the ultimate Success of which appeared to be certain, without any serious hazard on our part, that the fall of Bejar within a short time will be the result and with very little loss, I have no doubt,

I consider the volunteer army to be the main hope of Texas at this time, and until a regular force can be organized and I recommend that it be sustained and provided for in the most effectual and efficient manner,

Before closing this communication, I deem it my duty to recommend to the consideration of the Provisional Government the situation of the inhabitants of Bejar and Goliad, the necessary and indispensable operations of the War, has compelled the army to make use of a considerable amount of this property, particularly Corn, Beef, Cattle &c, so soon as circumstances will permit I respectfully recommend that some System be adopted to ascertain the amount of the property thus made use of, & to provide for a just Compensation, This recommendation also extends to houses or other property Used by the volunteers,

I will present to the Goverment another report on a special subject of importance, and I have the Honor to

Remain Governor Obt. Servt.

S. F. Austin

James H Robinson Esq.

Dear Sir

Representing Col. Thorn in his absence, I read Your favor directed to him and much pleased with its contents, particularly your solicitation to learn the feelings and views of your Constituents, making that the Polar Star of your Political course, The People have been much Excited upon the Report of the decree of the Convention appointing Commissioners to take possession of the archives of the different offices of this place for many days, Yesterday the document arrived in the hands of Gov. Everett, and last night a meeting of the people to be place to the number of forty Seven at a very short notice when resolutions prepared by Mr. Logan were adopted with only two dissenting voices, which resolutions will be presented to the Governor and Council by Gen Mitchell & Dr. Porter the bearers thereof. Permit me to say to you Sir, that I think your constituents of this place, have acted with a great deal of magnanimity and patriotism, not only in liberal advances in support of the war but in anticipating the General Council in stopping all operations in the land offices and surveys made after the first day of November, conscious at the same time that they were violating the established laws of the country, and were actuated solely upon the principles that desperate cases require desperate remedies and nothing but a destruction that a dissolution of the army would ensue, and our glorious Cause fail if the remedy was not applied, Could justify the means—

The basis of our Political System, is the right of the People to make or alter their Government at pleasure, But the Government which at any time exists, until changed by an Explicit and authentic act of the whole people, is soredly obligatory upon all. The very principle of the power and right of the people to establish Government, presupposes the duty of every individual to obey the established one. All obstructions to the Execution of the Laws, under whatever plausible pretext, with the real design to direct, control, counteract or awe the regular deliberations or actions of the constituted authorities are destructive of this fundamental principle and of fatal tendency.

I feel great delicacy in offering any comments on the subject of the decree above mentioned, being Egotistical, that a moment of pulling and reflection should

the favourite passion of every individual engaged in the Glorious cause of Liberty and independance, altho' I would offer my opinions with less hesitancy than almost any other individual in the Community, not possessing a cent of interest personally in either of the offices. In all my intercourse with the citizens of this Municipality in and out of town since the Excitement, I have met with but two persons who approve of the measure, I think myself, the measure a precipitate one, and when matured by the Council will be rescinded, or at least so modified as to give satisfaction. I will only suggest to your reflection, the vast Expence besides the impossibility of Executing the decree in any reasonable time, to take a triplicate copy of all the papers in the different offices would employ twenty clerks from 6 to 12 months, by which time, I flatter myself a new Government will be organized.

The decree itself seems to me to be a runaway measure adopted without mature deliberation, I am but a Spectator, an auditor in the field of political discussion, where indeed I have learned the opinions of a number of our most Respectable and Enlightened citizens condemning the measures of the Convention in the Election Of a Governor and Council, declaring they were only clothed with powers to deliberate, mature, and effectuate the best and most speedy measures to ensure the defeat of our enemies in the field which being accomplished the people would call a Convention to organize a new Government and frame a constitution congenial to their wishes. Be that as it may I am happy to learn that you are counted upon as one of the bright Satelites to guide us thro the mists of conflicting changes to the Standard of Liberty Crowned with Laurels and bearing the flag of Independence Stand forth then, and of the champions of civil rights, while our brave brethren in the field prove themselves a scourge to the Brutal Slaves of a despotic Tyrant O! our then may a cloud arise, which will obscure our political Sun until dispelled by the soft breezes of conciliatory measures. I hope you will be the happy instrument to guide the vessel of State thro' the political Sea, to a safe Mooring in the Haven of Liberty and Independence. The bearer of this and the resolutions will be more capable of developing to you the feelings and interests of the people of this Municipality than I am capable of.

I am with Esteem

Nacogdoches Nov. 29, 1835.

Madeo Edwards

To the Provisional Council of Texas.

Nacogdoches Nov. 8. 1835.

Gentlemen

As the question of the rights of the Indians will on the re assembleing of the Consultation of Texas Claim its immediate attention, The undersigned has been requested by a number of respectable Settlers in the vicinity of the Cherokees, to suggest to Council. Hon. Body the appointment of Commissioners to Treat with the Indians for their possessory right of Lands they are now occupying and the putting them in possession of other Lands upon such terms as will best secure their Rights, should they be unwilling to leave their present Possessions: That the same Commissioners be authorized to arrange with their Chiefs the boundaries of their Lands and the conditions upon which they will be permitted to remain in the quiet and undisturbed possession of the same, also further that those individuals whose lands circumscribe with or are in the near vicinity of Indian Settlements, by their relinquishing it shall receive floats for the same quantity to be laid on any vacant Land in the Territory, and that they should receive for their improvements, and the Expenses to be incurred by the Exchange a fair Compensation in Lands or other Equivalents.

With great Respect &c.
John Forbes

To the President and Prominent deputation of Texas

In Convention Convened

I now must inform you Something of the present situation of this Country, I have endeavored to give assistance to the army every way in my power that is now in Bejar, Yesterday, I drew in order to comply with the commandant of that place, Sixty bushels of Corn Meal and some beef cattle are now collecting for that place, Therfore I must now inform You that articles necessary to furnish that army are scarce here, as the Volunteers have since the War has been furnished with every thing from this place, and there is now no more steps is immediately needed here for the families in this Vicinity and there are no funds here in my hands which has not been appropriated to public use, Therfore I must say it is out of my power to comply in Contracting for the Army any longer without funds being placed in my hands to disburse, as the people here cannot longer render their services individually, nor this Country, or Teams without pay, as they are for the preservation of the families bound to use this money to this own individual purpose,

I have seen your resolves regulating and providing for Rangers on the frontier, I only say to you that in regard to the appointing the officers to command the Rangers in this division, the people will not organize under that regulation But if your Hon. body will see fit to permit us to elect our own officers to command the Company as to a Captain in that Point St Thinks a Company may be enrolled which will much need.

I am at this time recieving much from my wounds & afflictions that I informed you of in my last & communication having more of importance to inform you of at present, but remains

Your humble Servent &c,
Gonzales Jan. the 9th 1836.

Mathew Caldwell

J.H. Allen
To
Council

To the Members of the Honorable
Council of the Provisional Government

Your feeling of as
my duty to proceed immediately to the discharge of the duties
you have entrusted to my charge, I beg leave to tender you my
sincere and cordial Thanks for the confidence in me reposed
in me evinced by your Body and will ever be found to discharge my duties
well for the present, but in doing so I must beg leave to say
that I hold myself always in readiness to perform any and
every trust that your honorable Body may be pleased to place
under my charge for the benefit of our Country.

I beg leave to subscribe myself
Your &c.
J. Bowie

Quintana 29 Dec. 1835

J.J. McKinney
To
Council

To the Provisional Government of Texas

The appointment which I
have had the Honor to receive from your Hon. Body under date 20 Dec.
1835, as Commissary Genl. with the Rank and pay of Colonel has
circumstances makes it obligatory upon me to decline excepting. I
really feel much flattered by such evidence of confidence reposed
in me by that body & under the circumstances were I to accept of
the appointment I would feel that I was asking that Confidence for it
would be impossible for me to do justice to myself and to my
country holding such an appointment, I agreed a few days since
to accept of an agency which that Government was pleased to
Charge me with to aid Commissioners because it was impossible
but that one should have some person to do so and I am always
willing to do so far as possible to aid in such public duties when
I can be useful without pay or remuneration I am unqualified

to fill offices with character to myself and my Country, not that I believe I have not sense enough to learn what other men learn but because I have not made it my study, and now have not time from my private business to qualify myself without neglecting it and with it the interests of many an friend my relations in business connected, I owe them a duty and I must fulfil it. It is not indirectly in me nor a disrespect for that body which induces me to decline the Appointment, I would have most cheerfully accepted but for the reasons above mentioned for which I trust will be found good in any thing which I can be serviceable. I will take pleasure in serving

Your Obedient Servant

Thos. F. McKinney

San Filipe 4th Jany 1835

Messrs Hiatt Marks & J. D. Clements

Members of the Council of Texas

Mck & Wms to Marks & Clements

Gentlemen

You may say to the Hon Body of which you are members. that altho it is impossible that our Mr. McKinney should accept the appointment of Commissary, yet if they require that Articles be procured & forwarded to any particular point which they may designate we will either personally or by an agent attend to it That the present Contemplated Expedition against Matamoras may not be found in want in time of need.

McKinney & Williams

San Felipe Feb 23d 1836

To the Governor & Council

Burnett to Comal.

My Friends

My health improves but little and my own feelings Confirm what my Physician advises, to place myself under the immediate advice and direction of some able medical man, who can Command remedies, in New Orleans or elsewhere I am willing to make any and every sacrifice to my Country even my life, if required, but I cannot see the necessity of the sacrifice at this time, Indeed I am of opinion that I can be more useful to the General interests of Texas in her present threatening and alarming situation, as a confidential agent to the United States at New Orleans especially, than in any other way, which by, and my personal safety requiring my attention to this Business it is it unreasonable for me to ask the indulgence on my own account, at the same time that I tender my continued services at the extra ordinary Crisis when greatly demanded

Upon this subject Maj. Lewis and myself conversed considerably the day before he left here, and I take pleasure to assure that he can be in my views and clearly comprehends the duties required of such a functionary, I will not presume to dictate what should be my instructions in the event of your approval of my proposition, but will merely suggest some matters of present interest to our country's safety.

First, To keep a close observation on all vessels bound to Mexican Ports and such as have dispatches for the Central Army to embarrass their operations in every honorable manner until notice could be given to some of our Cruisers, and to this purpose points and means of communication should be required—

Second. The Consuls insured by some of our sub agents as Spies irregular and should be known truly to Government Under this head many things will be suggested to your mind.

3d. To pay more particular attention than has been done for keeping regular and more frequent intercourse between the U.S. with our Government.

4th. Urge forward volunteers for the approaching contest as fast as possible. These suggestions you will accept you think proper— and should you send me on, will no doubt give many other and important instructions suited to the emergencies of Texas now demand.

Col. Newcourt, I have spent some little time with and enclose his papers, I am decidedly of opinion that his services at this time with the army as head engineer would be more valuable than we can even now imagine, I hope he will be provided for at once, he is a Gentleman a Scholar and a man of Property, & has the reputation of a Soldier! If Expedient and possible let his Commission and instructions be forwarded by return Express, Capt James Letter I enclose and have conversed with several Gentlemen from below and with Col Wharton the subject of Galveston, all concur in the importance of fortifying there.

How would you approve of the measure of countermanding Capt. Fs recruiting orders and sending him and his men to fortify Galveston just reporting Col. W. to proceed there, select the site, plan the plan &c. and then proceed to Velasco and report to commanding Officer with Governors instructions,

Col Williams Letter speaks for itself He is extensively known in New Orleans, and I particularly advise that he be sent there to recruit &c, and that he receive such instructions as to his further propositions as your wisdom may suggest, I will be responsible for the fidelity of Col. W. I have written this letter myself for Mr Rose to copy and am greatly fatigued as

Most Close, with my most affectionate regards to you all and ever more &c.

Yours fait & Co Labourer in the Cause of our Country.
J. C. Barrett

P.S.

When I commenced writing I expected Mr Pauls would have left here this Morning, but from information of Judge Cummings, the Mill Creek is up, and Paul is unwell- will recommence tomorrow. By the enclosed letter of Col Harcourt you will perceive that he has recommended two other Germans Capt. Andrews of Brazoria who came here with Col H. speaks highly of the surgeon- says he is well provided with instruments and Medicines- such Surgeons we want. You perceive that Col H writes quite good English altho' a German, I am pleased with the Candour of his Statement.

Capt. Williams at My request has written at length. He has been long in the Country and much in the interior, is a close and qualified observer of what he speaks about. If on the "advisory Committee" I should unhesitatingly send him to new Orleans with instructions for men &c. If Texas must succeed or all is Cast. He will be active and diligent in forwarding men & means, Let him have Your prompt Sanction if at all, for our work must "go ahead" or we must give up to the Tyrant. Should you send me as I have suggested, I shall unite every exertion with the efforts of our friends to purchase Arms, ammunitions and provisions, Do so- you must keep the water fast, and after all the bustle & parade, in God's name, what has been done? Where are our arms, our ammunitions, our provisions for an army to withstand an invading force of 7,000 men, where are our public Stores houses & stores, a more wretched state of things from mismanagement & Wilful agents &c, cannot be immagined, Spare nothing that can promote the cause, I may want another draft for funds merely for Expenses in N.O. Give strict attention to this as you think, Sincerely

L. & B.

2nd P.S.

Believing the matters of great importance to which your attention is here called, I have employed an express who rides up today from this house, I have given him means for his Expenses up, & we will pay him on Your moment drafts $9.00 and let him have a public horse to ride back which I will place in the charge of the Master subject to your order, I hope the greatest dispatch will be given to the matters herein submitted, If I must perish for Texas let it be when I can do her good for the Country- And I cannot I know be so advantageously employed as upon the service I now suggest. I feel the necessity of an efficient action in the Senate, and that more judgement and prudence should be exercised, Provisions and Clothing, especially Dried stuffs must be instead Rapidly into Texas, and secured at safe and proper points, If you give heed to my Counsel your instructions to

very minute and many things entirely confidential, Maj. Lewis has a clear and just conception of the views and Existing necessities which I have so sincerely endeavored to submit to you, in this letter now commenced upon the subject and concluded in our opinions.

A Mr Pontleton has just arrived from the interior whose information is regarded and known Maj. Genl Burnet and connexion with Mr he be correct, Texas has time to meet the crisis, Her Government, her Energetic and prompt in action, But every moments delay is dangerous, time wasted in fruitless debate upon false & Measures may leave our Country and our Rights a sacrifice to the arch enemy who wars against Liberty & against Texas because She will not yield her rights, The Provisional Government must strive to gain Evidence of its integrity & stability, Let the Convention proceed to form a permanent Government free from interruption or party animosities

Ever Yrs,

Feb 24 1836. Bonnette.

Feb 29 1836

To the Governor and Council

Sir

I must say that I am surprised at your timidity and want of decision (?) at this Juncture in refusing to send an agent over to the U.S. as I proposed If you have any objection to myself in Gods name, send some other person, time should not be a moments delay, men and means are wanted at once and must be had or the Country is lost. I shall wait for or five days longer to hear from you on this subject

The Council must if possible get into a Quorum and push ahead, I presume the Convention will join the Pro. Got. on this subject by a public Resolution This should be attended to

In haste as ever, Yours &c.

J. H. Barnett

New Orleans 4th Nov. 1835

To the Officers of the Provisional
T.O. Comtte Government of Texas

To
Council on the affairs of Texas, Sir

The committee of this City had the pleasure of addressing you a few lines on the 20. Oct. This Mr Hall who accompanied them have gone to your seat of Government (Velasco 120 miles SW) we hope, have before this presented themselves, where their services will be useful. We now have the further pleasure of sending

about 30 more, who have been raised in Bexar and put under the controll of the Committee here.

The contemplated Expedition to be commanded by Genl Mexia, consisting of about one hundred and fifty men will sail tomorrow or to the Lobanor Bay Jane, all well Armed and provisioned: Tampico is the place of destination; which place we have no doubt will be in the possession of the Generals in a few days; he will communicate with you after his arrival by Express.

We have returned and ignore at the news of the first blow having been struck with success and we sincerely hope that of this Generally triumphant have followed: it will give us pleasure to hear from you from time to time, and to continue our feeble aid in whatever way we can with a view to which please Command us without reserve.

We have the honor to be with high regard & Consideration
Your obt Servants
Wm Christy
James Ramage
Agts
Comtee

Quintana 29 Dec 1835

To the Provisional Government of Texas.

N.O.R. to Fort. I take much pleasure in acknowledging the rept. of Your adoption of the Reports of the Committee to whom was refered the Letters of Genl Mexia and others, really it relieved my feelings very much indeed, you may imagine my situation and feelings, how very disagreeable when on the morning previous to receiving your instructions, Genl Mexia had placed in my possession subject to your orders the very articles which you ordered me to take possession and detain, who I need Your orders I was much perplexed how to act business and had not a moment to reflect, Mexia does not know and I hope never will, of the order, I view him as a private Citizen I have not the greatest confidence, that is as a moral, character, but to our cause, I have abundance of evidence that he is wholly devoted and could have been no use to us by writing directly with the Governor of Tamaulipas and others who have influence in Mexico & procuring Mexicans & inducing the credit of Texas and Retiring her free from debt we have Sanguine Gentlemen however who are engaged in procuring a Cruzade thro' the Country against all unrighteous, and in favor of immediate restoration of confidence, procuring Enlistments of volunteers and travellers who have not been three days in the Country & the Spanish frontier of Bragoria &

publish any thing without the indorsation and Sanction of those men when they are in his reach and this one have facts can clearly prove

I am not one of those who claim any Special Privileges for having lived on poor deer and having laid in on the ground, but I really think a few months residence should be necessary, before men should be so very active and warm in pointing out to the people what course to pursue If we are People of Ordinary intelligence such presumption is insulting to our understanding and if we have not such intelligence we do not deserve to be informed by Strangers for we would have to have a Prompter at our Elbows all the time or we would constantly run into Error,

Mexia received almost direct insult from some of our Citizens and not receiving any communication from that Government Mortified him intensely, yet he said nothing was a burthen to him in Sustaining the cause of Constitutional principles against Centralism, If I can Spare time I will try and come up in a few days; very respectfully Your obt Sert,

Thos. F. McKinney

Sundry letters &c. of S. F. Austin, T. F. Archer & William H. Wharton Commissioners

New Orleans Jan 10. 1836

Comrs. To His Excellency H. Smith,
To
Gov Smith

Dear Friend

We have pleasure Captain Jeremiah Brown in command of the armed Schooner Liberty. His known Enterprise as a seaman his devotion to our cause, and above all his previous services by the introduction of Emigrants to the country recommend him to our highest favor,

Permit me to add that any thing here promises well - Accept my best wishes for yourself and our Common Country

Your friend & Servants
J. F. Archer
Wm H. Wharton
S. F. Austin

Louisville Kentucky March 3d 1836

To the Governor of Texas

Sir

Same to Same

It possibly may be considered that the Commissioners have delayed too much time in getting on to Washington, The delay has been unavoidable owing to the sickness of Mr Wharton and Genl. Austin at Nashville.

But had nothing of this kind detained us we have no doubt that the cause of Texas has been much more effectually promoted by our presence in this Country than it could have been done in Washington City.

It is almost useless for us to appear in Washington, until we receive instructions from the Convention of Texas to apply in form to the U.S. Government to recognize our Independence, if we go to Washington now, we cannot be recognized or allowed in any public capacity whatever, and a refusal to receive us as Commissioners would have a bad effect this opinion is formed on information received from a source that is entitled to confidence

The course heretofore pursued by the People of Texas has been unanimously approved of by all men of reflection and calm judgement, for they say it has been marked by prudence and forbearance on our part which has placed us on high ground, The events in Mexico, the revolutionary State of that country the prostration of the constitution & the establishment of Federalism has cancelled and freed Texas to separate and absolute independence, It now ought to be done, Public opinion all over this Country Expects and calls for such a declaration and our friends are anxiously awaiting it would have been deemed as a precaution, or at least a doubtful measure last November It now will be hailed by this People as the true course and the Salvation of Texas.

The Particular object of this Letter is therefore to urge upon you all an immediate and full declaration of Independence and to send it to the Commissioners by Express with full powers to act under it, we hope all this will have been done before this reaches you, we have Stated here that we have no doubt the declaration would be made on this day or tomorrow the 4th of March,

The negotiations of the financial operations is all important a bank will give great facilities to the Country in its present affairs Mr J M Williams has made arrangements to put one in immediate operation, he has the bills &c all with him, we strongly recommend this subject to the Convention & Authorities.

In our Communication from Nashville we recommended the issuing of Treasury notes, we now repeat that Recommendation, and have to suppose that the Bank in our opinion will and many patriotically we giving credit to those notes, as we informed you from

Freedom of Conscience against Usurpation, Despotism & the Hierarchal and unholy monopolies of the Church of Rome, the rich & the blessings of Civil Liberty over one of the fairest portions of this Continent, and to offer a home upon its fertile soil, to the pious and industrious of all religious denominations. in closing this, we intrude no rights appertaining to neiper, neglect no duty, and the contrary Right & Justice & duty loudly call upon us to resist oppression and defend ourselves, they call upon the noble, the liberal, the pious and the free to fly to our aid and assist in planting the Standard of Independence & of Freedom in Texas.

Your offer is accepted. the Regiment or Regiments of volunteers which you propose to raise will be received into the service of Texas, on the terms and conditions enacted by the Provisional Government of Texas, by their ordinance of 6th December last and other laws and obligations now in force on the subject. The Expenses of Arming and Equipping said force so far as it is done by you will be refunded to you by the Provisional Government at the close of the war or as soon as the finances of the Country will permit, said arms and Equipments to be furnished to the Government at a fair valuation, Ammunition and provisions furnished by you for said force will also be put on the same footing so the arms and Equipments the accounts to be duly audited and substantiated by the proper vouchers a reasonable allowance will also be paid for the transportation of said Regiment or Regiments to Texas.

On your arival there you will report yourself to the Governor of Texas or the Commander in Chief of the Army in conformity with said order of the 6th December after which your self and troops will be considered as having formally entered into the Service of Texas and their pay and rations commence from that time.

It is understood that the above mentioned force of volunteers are to be received altho the number shall not amount to 1500 men it is however not to Exceed that number and they are to be in Texas by the month of March next.

The County Lands for the volunteers are to be located under the direction of the Government and no claims or rights Existing or for which the Government of Texas may be compromited, at the time of receiving said volunteers are to be interfered with.

S. F. Austin
W. T. Archer

New Orleans January 20 1836

Same
To
Same

To His Excellency
Governor Henry Smith,
Sir

We forwarded to you by Capt. Brown of Nacogdoches a copy of the Contract for the loan of $200,000 negotiated by us with Robt Triplett and others, and we now forward two more copies thereof printed with a list of the members of the Ships taken by Each Stockholder, also 6 copies of the Ships which will fully inform the Government of every particular relative to this transaction, we also enclose an attested copy of the Contract for a second Loan made by Mr Ewin & others & Copies of the Ship Deeds by this Loan.

By the Conditions of these Loans they are to be ratified by the Convention, the instalments on the first loan cannot be paid until after such ratification is published by the Government agent in this City in conformity with the 11th article, The faith of the Country is pledged for this ratification and in the last loan we the Commissioners have pledged our individual property and estates for such ratification, any failure or delay in ratifying these loans will totally ruin the Credit of Texas, The Market price of Land is now fixed at $2 a dollar per acre and we are of the opinion that no more Lands should be disposed of in future by the Government at less than one dollar or one Dollar a quarter as the minimum, We have appointed Mr W. T Bryan the general Agent of the Government in this City, and Edward Hall Purchasing agents Copies of these appointments are Enclosed.

William Bryan has accepted for the Government to a considerable amount as will advance by his Comisant at four and six months in anticipation of the instalments which are to be paid on the first loan, you will therefore perceive at once the great importance of dispatch in ratifying that loan and having the Corresponding notice given, so that instalments may become due as soon as possible, for should the funds not be provided to pay Bryans acceptances or they Should Lay over or be protested it would ruin the Cause of our Country.

Enclosed is an account of the receipts and disbursements which have passed thro' our hands, by which you will perceive the Sums paid to the Treasurer Mr Austin, the Adjutant General J. D Wharton and to Capt Jerry Brown and Purser Wells of the Schooner Liberty

A considerable portion of the Purchases were made by some of these officers without the instructions of the Genl. Agent which has caused some confusion in the manner of doing the business. To avoid a recurrence of similar things in future it would perhaps be best that all the Purchases of the Government relative to Expenditures in this City be done thro the Genl. Agent.

The Schooner Liberty has been Expensive, an Examination

-nite her accounts may be necessary, a very rigid Scrutiny and Exam-
-ination into the accounts of Public agents is indispensibly necessary
and a strict accountability should be established, If this is not done
in the Commencement of our financial operations, carelessness, confusion
and waste and perhaps fraud will creep into the Treasury department, which
will totally destroy all confidence and credit and ruin our cause.

We have purchased "Ingham" (late Revenue Cutter) and she
is fitting out by the Genl. Agent. under the superintendance of Captain
Hawkins who is to command her. Our colleague W.H. Wharton left on
the 17 for Nashville, we have been detained to close the Second loan
and Complete the other business, but Expect to leave tomorrow.

By the last accounts from the Mexican Ports it ap-
pears that active preperations are making to invade Texas by Sea
and Land, Several heavy armed vessels are fitting out at Campeachy
and Vera Cruz Genl. Santanna, Expected Matamoras, &c.

We have authorized Genl. Thos Stevens to raise, arm
and equip a body of Volunteers, for the Service of Texas, not to Exceed
fifteen hundred Men in Texas by march next. The Expence of arming
equipping and transporting are to be refunded after the Close of the War.

We requested him to Correspond with you on the Subject
and Enclose you a copy of our letter to him- We have introduced
him to the agent W.H. Wharton with whom he will Correspond, We rec-
-ommend that you Keep the Genl agent informed regularly every month
of every thing Calculated to promote our cause that he may publish
it

Respectfully Your obt Servts
S. F. Austin
B. T. Archer

P.S.

We enclose a copy of our instructions to A. Yates a Citizen of
Texas to proceed immediately to the City of New York for the purpose
of purchasing an armed Steam vessel suited to defend our Coast
and harbors, Such a vessel will be of the utmost importance &
probably our Finds could not be better applied, The independent
position which it is Expected and hoped Texas will assume in a
short time renders it necessary that the most active and efficient
preparations be made to sustain that position, and never needed
are they more than at this our march that Texas ought to declare
independance at the next Convention we have no doubt as we
have heretofore written in our former dispatch, in this opinion
the Commissioners are all united, We therefore hope that our
Measures adopted here to sustain that declaration will be ap-
proved of by the Government and by our fellow Citizens

S. F. Austin

B. T. Archer

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New Orleans January 28 1836

Comms to A Yates

Mr. A. J. Yates

Sir

Your letter of the 16th instant submitting an offer to proceed to the city of new York and purchase a Steam Vessel for the Government of Texas has been received and is accepted.

In accordance with your proposal you are herewith two hundred dollars, and a letter of credit pledging the faith of the Government of Texas as far as I am authorized to do for an amount not exceeding twenty thousand dollars to be paid out of the Loan negotiated in Neworleans on the 11th instant with which you are with you to proceed with all possible dispatch to the city of New York and purchase a Steam vessel of not more than 300 tons burthen & one of two hundred would be much preferable, strong and substantially built to bear heavy guns, say 18 pounders and in every way fit for sea service. The object of this Steamer is to defend our coast and harbours from Mexican Cruisers, and to facilitate the safe transportation, of troops emigrants and the munitions of war: she is therefore to be provided with such an amount of heavy cannon and small arms as may be necessary to effect said object, and well commanded by Experienced officers sufficiently manned with Seamen gunners &c. and supplied with munitions and provisions for at least three months,

you will also advertise for passengers for Texas, and charge them such reasonable price for passage as in your Judgement should be proper, and if any should take passage in said Boat, with intention of Entering into the Service of Texas they shall have their passage free any organized companies who shall take passage with you, regularly armed and equipped for the same service shall be further repaid for such arms and equipments at a reasonable price by the Government as soon as funds for that purpose can be procured to the Public Treasury.

You will have said vessel cleared from the Custom house, in New York in Your own name as owner, duly insured, and proceed direct to Galveston Bay or any other port in Texas and report yourself and the vessel and passengers to the Governor of Texas, and present your accounts supported by the receipts & vouchers to be audited and Executed duplicate of said vessel to the Government and return the Register to the City of New York.

As dispatch is of the greatest importance in Executing the foregoing Mission, you are desired to make every effort to sail from the city of New York on or before the first day of March next, your Personal Expenses on the Journey will be allowed, and such reasonable Compensation for your time as the Government shall hereafter determine on delivery of said vessel

I. F. Hurtin
B T Archer
Commrs

New Orleans Jany 21 1836

Mr A. J. Yates

Sir

Same to Williams Bryan the General agent of of the Government of Texas Same. in the City of New Orleans for the sum of twenty thousand dollars payable at the Bank of New orleans, at the time that the instalments hereafter to become due on the land negotiated by the Commissioners on the 4 instant shall become due, and you are to account to the Government of Texas for the proceeds of said draft in conformity with the letter of instructions this day given you by said Commissioners.

S. F. Austin,
B. T. Archer
Comrs

New orleans January 21 1836

Mr. William Bryan
Genl agent &c.

Comrs. to Bryan. Sir You are hereby authorized to accept the draft of A. J. Yates drawn on you as Genl. agent of the Government of Texas in the city of New-orleans. Said draft to be made payable at any time subsequent to the date when the instalment on the land negotiated by the Commissioners in behalf of said Government on the 4 inst shall become payable, and to pay the same from the proceeds of said instalment, to the amount of twenty thousand dollars and retain this letter of advice, and said draft with the letter of advice of said Yates as your vouchers therefor

S. F. Austin
B. T. Archer
Comrs.

New Orleans Jan. 21 1836

A Yates Sq. have this day rec'd. of the Commissioners of Texas the sum of two hundred dollars in cash and a letter of credit of which Comrs. the above is a copy for the sum of twenty thousand dollars for which I am to account to the Government of Texas agreeable to the foregoing letter of instructions from said Commissioners.

A. J. Yates

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To

Gen Austin

New Orleans 20 June 1836

Dear Sir

I have been dealy Expecting since my arrival in New orleans to receive from New York Some specific instructions in regard to a Loan proposed by the Company of Patriotic Merchants in that city to the Government of Texas at my instigation after Burn had left New York I came round by Cincinatti to arrange Some Contingencies thereto and upon the receipt of a letter from me they were to send me Specific propositions and instructions. Not having received such propositions & instructions I am now at a loss how to act, I am Extremely anxious to be the instrument in Extending to the Texian Government any facilities in my power or that of my friends towards the accomplishment of its independence, I must believe that these instructions will reach me in 24 or 48 hours from this date, and if So I will hasten with them to the seat of Government, If they do not reach me please to Submit to your Government in what terms they will be willing to take a loan of half a million dollars and write to my address at New York to the Care of Hill & Co Wall Street and efficient measures will be promptly adopted to Secure the loan, Should my instructions not arrive in a short while, I shall return as Expeditiously to New York as possible, and must request that this letter may begin the Correspondence, I have Embarked my whole fortune in the Cause of Texas and am resolved that no Efforts of Mine, humble, tho' they be, Shall ever be wanting to lend her a helping hand—

Very Respectfully, I am dear Sir
Your most obt. Servt
W. H. Hill

New Orleans Jan. 19 1836

Gates to Messrs S.F. Austin
Comrs T. Archer
W.H. Wharton
Gentlemen

Commissioners &c.

Having located myself at the Bay of Galveston in Texas, where I intend to take up my residence being a citizen of Texas, and of course warmly and actively sympathising in her present struggle and Extremely solicitious for her future Success I feel it not only my duty but a privilege to make personal sacrifices for the public welfare and am willing to offer my Service when I can be most useful to the Country of my adoption.

By profession I am a Counsellor at Law, and am tolerably well acquainted with the acts and pursuits of a nation at Peace, But I feel myself unfit for any Military Station of command being totally

ignorant of Military tactics and discipline, I believe however that I can be of more service to the country in providing and disposing the means of defence and munitions of War, than I should be as a private soldier in the ranks of the regular army,

As the Government will no doubt find it necessary to Establish Military and naval Stations at the Island of Galveston I would respectfully solicit the appointment of commissary to that Station, believing that my Extensive acquaintance at the City of New York and other important places in the United States will give me peculiar facilities in fulfiling the duties of that office to the advantage of the Government

Should my proposal meet with your approbation I should feel very grateful to you for such recommendations to the Governor and proper authorities of Texas as you may feel disposed to give me,

I remain with Sentiments
of the highest Respect
Your Obt. Servant.
A. Yates

To the Gov. or Texas

Cousts. From our personal Knowledge with Mr
to. Gates, and the favorable recommendations we have rec'd. of him, we
Govr. State Alcaldes in recommending him to the Government of Texas
as a person well qualified to fill the Station of Commissary of Gal-
veston should such an office be created, & if not, we are of the
Opinion that Mr Gates Can be advantageously and usefully Employ
in some other civil Station

C. New Orleans Jan 31. 1836

S. H. Austin
3
B. T. Archer

Washington Texas 31 1836

Same D. C. Wolf Esqr.
to Dr Sir
Wolf

We presume you have seen in the papers an account of the defeat of the Mexicans at fort Alamo in San Antonio, and that Santana is at the River Nueces with a large force &c. we have also information of all that will probably be done at Matamoras and shall go there in a few days—

The Zeal & Patriotism with which you have advocated the cause of Texas has encouraged us to request that you will proceed with as little delay as possible to Charleston S. Carolina and do all you can to procure men and money for our cause. The actual situation of Texas & Santana approach the

measures and are desirous the immediate presence of an agent in the Country is all important, we therefore hope you will consider it to be your first & most pressing duty to leave Velasco without any delay. You need not wait for our arrival there, but proceed to the seat of Government at Columbia & there lay the subject of a public meeting at Velasco, before it. We must not delay on that account, every minute you may be enabled to collect in the Northern States you will depart with Williams Bryan, Texas & your self for New Orleans.

In N. Orleans you will find a letter drawn up to the Texian Government to be taken up by you in case you should be of mind there before us. the said Col. Morgan of N. Orleans arrived here a few days since for Phila to purchase needs of War for Texas

Yours respectfully

S. F. Austin
J. P. Wharton
Jno. A. Wharton

New York February 23 1836

To His Ex. Henry Smith
Governor of Texas

Sir

After leaving Texas I found the Commissioners of Texas, Messrs. Austin, Archer & Wharton were on their passage from the City of New Orleans on the 22d of January last, & were undecided when to address them, and having received some information of importance to the Government of Texas, I have felt it my duty to communicate the same directly to you and avoid the delay which must necessarily take place by writing to them when to address the Commissioners, I shall also address them at Washington City by this Mail, giving them the same information communicated in this dispatch.

The Ship Splendid, Captain Hart arrived here yesterday from Vera Cruz, from which port she sailed on the 1st inst. & has a Private & confidential Letter, on which the utmost reliance may be placed I have ascertained that the packet Montezuma was absent to sail from Vera Cruz on the 5th inst. and that Senor Gorostiza Ex Minister to the Court of St James was appointed an Envoy Extraordinary to this Government, and that the Congress of the Confederation of Mexico was convened & had met on the 1st inst. for the purpose of receiving, & the usual interchange of Credentials had taken place by writing to them when to address the Commissioners, I shall also address them at Washington City by this Mail, giving them the same information contained

military men can be duly Expected, I shall obtain further and more particular information and will communicate the same immediately to the Government.

On the subject brought under your notice of offering money to be employed to suggest the propriety of a Diplomatic Executive of Egypt to the United States, as one of the first and most important points of the Administration of Mehemet Ali's declining and discontinuance of the Egyptian Commerce with the United States I have had some Conversation with the Consul of Mexico, and I have no doubt but that Government will be disposed to adopt the measure, and I think it probable that Mexico will immediately be found ready to appoint a Diplomatic Agent to the United States, but I am not prepared to say that the Government of Mexico will be disposed to make any Expenditure, or to incur the delay of sending their Minister to Egypt, as I am not acquainted with the Character of the Consul General of Mexico at Alexandria, and I am not prepared to say that they have not already appointed him Minister to the United States, but I am also acquainted to say, that I have received the Consul General of Mexico at Alexandria, and I am not prepared to say that they have not already appointed him Minister to the United States, but I am also acquainted to say, that I have received

With regard to the object of negotiating a Treaty, our Consul General advised the Secretary of the Government of the City of New Orleans on the 22d ult. to send a steam boat of 200 tons burthen one gun also provided to proceed with a low pressure Engine of 32 inch Cylinder & 6 feet stroke which was purchased for $23,000 dollars a little less than cost and Equipment with boat complete & ready to sail immediately after the necessary to be sent on her, and also to proceed to Mexico with a cargo of goods, & then proceed up the Coast of the Gulf of Mexico to the Mouth of the Rio Grande where she will make Rendezvous for ten days immediately after arrival. Lieut. Macomb informs me that he has 200 brave Officers & Men engaged and ready to sail and anchor at Alexandria with their Arms & Ammunition on board and also engaged to proceed to sea in any direction and remain on the coast of Egypt in charge of the vessel of about 200 tons, to sail in 60 days with passengers for Egypt, if they can contract for the sale of said vessel & Cargo to the Government, they will probably proceed to Egypt

the same for Texas and I have concluded to confer with the commissioners on the subject, as soon as possible and endeavor to have it done- the vessel will cost about $5,000 to the government and the owners will take pay in Lands at 50 cts per acre, and perhaps they will be willing to allow more,

If I succeed in making the arrangement, I shall apply to the Commissioners for the Privilege of sending out the first Packet with a Proper and discreet person in charge and remaining himself to perform and Sail in the Vessel,

If the project I have mentioned last is approved, I should be happy to receive in addition to the instructions I hope to receive from the Commissioners, and additional power with discretionary authority from the govt. before I sail from this Port.

I Remain &c
with Sentiments of the
highest consideration
Your
A. B. Yates

Washington City 9 of April 1836
Confidential

Wm H. Wharton
To
Gov. of Texas

Dear Sir

Since the meeting of the new convention we have had no correspondence with the Texas Government, We have seen the declaration in the papers, but this Government will take no notice of it until it is presented by an agent with credentials from the present government, Let me urge the meeting of some one with plenipotentiary powers without one moments delay, he must be here before this Congress adjourns, They I think are favorable. The "rot" may have a tendency of northern and Eastern jealousy & abolition, let our Minister be instructed and Empowered to negotiate for the admission of Texas into this union, if such, (which God grant) is the wish of Texas, In my Estimation it is all important to become a portion of this Confederacy, I would give 9/10 of what I am worth, rather than miss it If Texas repels her present invaders, and if disorder among the inhabitants does not prevail, she will be recognized and admitted in my opinion on liberal terms, but if our invaders prevail, or if anarchy and confusion and violence among the inhabitants should arise, then Texas should not be recognized or admitted. on this you may rely, for gods sake, for our wives and childrens sake, and our bleeding country's sake, let harmony and union prevail as among a band of Brothers, Let our minister have ample powers and instructions so that the Treaty when begun may not be stopped for want of them, Do attend to this all is lost unless you do, I write Earnestly but I trust it will be received as it is meant, and not imputed to dictation, In regard to raising money we have been much dumped for want of a declaration of Independence, Capitalists would not loan under the Mexican declaration

one have had capable and industrious agents at work in Newyork since January, ten^ no money could be raised without giving away all Texas.
Since the declaration Genl. Austin has gone to Newyork to try the lenders again we offer to the lenders to pledge all we have on earth, even to our wearing apparel, we are trying one of the Government loans in Baltimore and one in Philidelphia. Austin writes me from Baltimore that he has strong hopes of effecting a loan. Dr Archer has gone to Richmond to try & negotiate one of the loans there. The others are trying in Newyork. I remain here to attend to the correspondence and to keep the Government correctly advised in regard to our situation and prospects, the volunteers who have returned have filled the country with falsehood & I am nearly always writing to disprove them Slanders.

I have been and am in bad health. I was confined Several weeks in nashville left there for this place when I could not set up and was again confined in Pittsburgh, my health is however improving. The Commissioners have acted together in the utmost harmony do attend if you have not done it already to sending on a minister immediately with plenary powers to treat for the admission of Texas into this union, probably 2 or 3 agents would be better,

Very Respectfully
Wm. H. Wharton

Nashville Feb. 7 1836

Dear Sir

Same I have been here for Several days confined to my room with cold & to Crapt. Austin and Archer are I fear frozed up in the river below, all hauling by Same land and water is suspended. The Mississippi & Louisianna Senators cannot get to Washington, I shall take a horse when I am able if the River do not open. I have written to the President and my friends in both houses of Congress in regard to our Texas affairs. I have also published and sent on my ——— pamphlet. The french question absorbs every thing it is unfortunate that our affairs came on the carpet Simultaneously. Mexico has remonstrated with this Government but nothing done as yet. I look with great anxiety to the next convention in Texas. I hope all personal or party feelings is forgotten I hope they will declare absolutely and advise us of it with instructions. the vote should be taken on whether they wish to be attached to the United States. I prefer it 10,000 to 1. the declaration should be explicit, in the new organization I will have nothing to do with the Executive Post. I hope the past I am now in to any office if they choose to Run me in it, As I wrote you a belief that me claimed any thing beyond the Rio Grande, would claim no Country all depends on shedding blood in Texas

Yours in haste
Wm. H. Wharton

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New Orleans Jan. 10th 1836

Comrs. to Gov. Smith

To His Ex. Wm Smith
Governor of Texas

Sir

We have succeed in effecting a loan in this city of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for Texas on the terms as contained in a copy of the contract herith closed. Some of the best informed persons of this place confidently assert that this loan ensures the triumph of our cause and the Independence of Texas, that in New Orleans, so near us, and so well acquainted with our situation, confidence enough should exist in us to induce them to loan to us, speaks volumes in our favor, and will give Confidence every where Else. The stock in this loan will soon be in the hands of hundreds of Capitalists who will feel as much interest in Texas and exert themselves as much for it, as those of us who have long lived there To prove this, the lenders have offered to Land in Texas within six weeks, five hundred men, officered, armed and equiped, to serve during the war on the terms of the Military laws of the provisional government and conventions, and after the war to receive pay for the costs of their arms and outfit, with interest in the mean time at 8 per cent on the amount, with the option of being paid on the basis of this loan as an addition to it, from their arrival in Texas. This is the true way in which to obtain troops, to undertake to receive them here and pay them way to Texas is now impossible we have not the means and it is an open violation of the laws of this country, than which nothing could more effectually injure our cause, let volunteers not be recognized until they have presented themselves to the Governor or Commander in chief, a sufficient number will do this at their own Expense, a man must have lived to little advantage and will not be of much force when he joins us, if he be not able to spend thirty or forty dollars to get to Texas, Especially when he will be paid for upon, horse, from his arrival.

all grants of Land or certificates of citizenship or reception, hereafter to those who are not now in Texas, or who have not already acquired rights should be made with a special reservation of the priority of location stipulated for this four hundred thousand acres contracted away by this loan and it should be so published and mentioned in the certificate that no body be deceived.

Disposing of our land at 50 cts per acre for the purpose of getting money so particularly indispensible at this moment appears to us very fortunate, In fact, rather than have missed the loan, we had better borrowed the money for five years and given them the lands in the bargain.

We are of the opinion that in the next Convention a stop should be put to granting league and quarter league tracts to all who come after that date for otherwise the country will be taken up entirely before we have volunteers enough and Under the pay and rations of the United States with a premium of Six hundred and forty acres, will induce just as many to come. we respectfully suggest this, as what we would Endeavor to do were we of the next Congress Convention.

The information from Mexico received here, is, that the leading

men of the federal Party have united with Santa Anna to invade Texas- Consequent-ly the position taken by the declaration of 7 Nov: in favor of the Republican principles of the Constitution of 1824 can no longer do any good, the object of that declaration having been to extend hope and liberty over Mexico- & thus secure the co operation of the Liberal Party, on the other hand mention-ing the Federal Constitution in that declaration has done us an injury in this Country and would ruin us if it were not confidently Expected and believed that a new Convention would soon meet and make an abso-lute declaration, In Expressing this opinion we are influenced by the information now before us, and we do not in any manner blame the convention for making such declaration, all of us concurred in the propriety of it at that time, and believed the convention had no power to make any other; inasmuch as a declaration of independence was not contemplated when they were Elected, All we say is that a bolder declaration was Expected here, and we have clearly ascertained since our arrival here that we would have been sustained in it with more sympathy, zeal, efficiency- we hope to be at home in march and can then give more specific information on the subject.

Respectfully Your
obt. Servts.
S. F. Austin
Wm H Wharton
B. T. Archer

Nashville Feb 24 1836.

Sir

Same to Same

On the recommendation of A. R. Hill Esqr of this city (of whose appointment by us, as the agent of Texas in this State we advised you a few days since, we have concluded to adopt the plan of issuing treasury notes. As delay is pernicious and may be ruinous to our cause, we have conclud-ded to take the responsibility of having the plates engraved for the notes imme-diately on our arrival in Philadelphia and take them with us to Texas to be signed by the President of the Republic of Texas.

As one of us at least will be at home in april, we recommend that no law be passed for the issue of Treasury notes until one or all of us arrive with the plates. The law can then be passed and published, we shall procure a model for the Law at Washington from the acts of Congress on the subject and from men of financial knowledge in this way no time will be lost and the best advice can be had on the subject

Enclosed is a copy of the notes proposed by Mr Hill. This Gentleman is the same who advanced five thousand dollars for Texas and is at this time more actively engaged in promoting our cause than any man in the U.S. he has this day assured us that he will take fifty thousand dollars of these notes, and is confident that as many to any amount we need may be raised on them.

Another great advantage of this place is the supplying a circulating medium which is much needed in Texas,

Respectfully
Your obt. Servts
S. F. Austin
W. J. Austin
H. H. Wharton
Comm's for Texas.

P. Pinetto to Gov. Robinson

Communications from Officers in the Army; to General Council, and Governor Smith, referred to General council, &c. &c. &c.

To James W. Robinson Esqr
Lieut. Governor and Ex officio President of the Senate
Sir

A certified copy of the Resolutions of the Gen. Council appointing John Sayon, Commissary and Contractor of this Commissariat, a like copy of the Communication last received from the Commissioners of the volunteer army before Bexar, a copy of the Resolution inviting Genl. Mexia to Co-operate with the volunteers army of the People near Bexar by way of Galvaida, a copy of the resolution accepting the services of Col. Powers for the purposes therein named, a copy of an ordinance for the government of the Army, and that also of a resolution directing the discharge of Mor Fannin, or for sending him immediately to that place with the charge against him, were all duly received by the hand of Maj S. White and have been attentively perused and carefully noted.

As only one of the documents here acknowledged, a Requirement Either to contemplate or require immediate action (Viz) that ordering the Enlargement of Frazier) on the part of the Commissioners and as he has been liberated previously to the receipt of the order of the Council; the formality of an acknowledgement of this receipt only has been dispensed and it is hoped not unjustifiably for the return of leisure to enable me to reply more fully than the hurry and high Excitement of the hour of this reception, would either favor or permit,

As Frazier was released as stated above antecedent to the receipt of the order on my own responsibility, the Preservation of order in the Port and Town, and not the infliction of Punishment having furnished the Motive for his arrest and Confinement in the first instance, I could not reconcile it to duty, or to my own Construction of the Spirit as well as the letter of the official order to send him personally to the Council, But I have considered and still

consider it not only necessary with a view to many reasons important to the operations of the service, as well as to that of those immediately embarked in it by voluntary association, to forward to the general Council of any Country, Copies of every Paper and file relating to the conduct of the individuals in question, they are further transmitted herewith, Enclosed "Copy of the proceedings of a Court of Enquiry in the case of Lieut Theophilus Fraser including Charges and Specifications." A like copy of the Examinations connected therewith is also transmitted by express to the Commander in Chief Head Quarters before Bexar this Month, But this like most other Communications of importance the safety or the subsistence of that Command was passed over in Silence, not a single acknowledgement even, of the receipt of such papers by the Commander there has yet been received here.

On the Subject of a Contractor and Commissary for the Garrison, I beg leave of the Council to remark and I do it for the information that I regard the Gentleman named in the resolution as having been appointed, as incapable of discharging the duties of the office, He said is an old man, The duties of the Place require action; he is intemperate; a proper discharge of the trust confered, requires sobriety in the incumbent. Moreover, he should be a man of business habits, patient, persevering, indefatigable and untiring.

On any other account I have no objection to the Individual named in the resolution here referred to, but constrained as I am to believe it, the intention of the Council to Promote and provide for the Service, instead of paralizing and suffering it to pine away under a total destitution of subsistence, I consider it my duty to Speak freely on this as well as every other Subject connected with its present and future prosperity without ample and known Provision, for the faithful and reliable subsistence of our People they will be exceedingly unwilling to Enter the Service and equally reluctant to remain after they do enter it, and even after the utmost that can be done and well done, it will be found a difficult matter and at best a precarious defence to calculate on volunteers to garrison our Military Posts, Few of them have been accustomed, to active productive and stimulating pursuits, and they droop or demand at the first of garrison duty, to make this service both cheerful and useful they ought to be actively and usefully Employed either in sight of the Enemy or on his trail, as far as we can furnish this kind of Employment to our volunteers, both and Clothe them well, no Kind of force whatever can either Equal or contrast with those of Texas, They are brave, intrepid, persevering and Enthusiastic, and their innate attachment to liberty liberal institutions and above all to those emphatically and exclusively Landed Establishments in the Creation of the administration of which they are called on to act (!) and but accordant to ask of the last generosity ever yet devised by the wit of man, to endure warm encouraging and unchangable fidelity &c. &c.

In connection with this subject I cannot forbear to draw the attention of the Council while I briefly present for consideration the present condition of the volunteer Corps composing this Command, to remind Your Hon. Body of the circumstances under which and in obedience to which they entered the Service of this Country, would be a waste of time; and might imply an unbecoming reflection on the Zealous regard of this Council to the events and the duties of the day Sufficient therefore that few and perhaps more than sufficient for carrying this first object anticipated a Service so long & so much protracted or entered it, in a State of proper preparation to remain as long as they have, most of this, Steps Were taken early in November to secure Lands &c. &c. necessaries required by the season, ready to receive them if practicable to the utmost and indeed labour and nature of the Service previous by the pressure of Events and to aid the daily importunities of these officers to furnish on a sufficient number to relieve and the Men for Guard or exhibitation of Bread &c to protect the Public Property and repeat if required any small detachments of the Enemy that might otherwise have ingained Knowledge,

This object has now been realized, and Seeing the Companions in arms returning to the haunts and Scenes of private life, a very sensible anxiety prevails both with nearly all here to revisit their families at the same time declaring their readiness to return to the Service on the first approach of an Enemy.

More than half the volunteers in this Command are encumbered with the cares of a family, and some with those of a numerous family: generally dependant Even for the necessaries of life on the daily labour of the head of it, until the present moment however the abundant supply of Subsistence taken here, has enabled me to furnish some of the more important articles to those families where heads are in the Service, This I was obliged to do or dispense with the Services of many whose presence now of total unfortunes to Keep up at times the Show of a considerable force to defend it even against a party of Marauders, But we are not only unable any longer to furnish bread for others, we have none now Except what we buy and pay cash for from day to day for ourselves our families are Entirely out — and we are now subsisting on the corn reserved and actually needed for the support of the fixed population of the town, nor can even this resource avail us But a short time, there is but little corn now left not so much indeed as will bread the Place, till seed time leaving the interim between this, and harvest time wholly unprovided for.

From the preceding Statement of facts the Council will very readily perceive that in case they would retain possession of Kohl and defend this Post it is indispensibly necessary that

those who have so long and patiently sustained it should be relieved for a time at least and that it is equally important that means of subsistence shall be provided for those in whose possession the present occupants may be instructed to leave it is unsafe and therefore impolitic to urge too far in the beginning of the contest the patience and attachment of our people.

It is now some time since I have heared a word from or indeed of the actual State of things in San Patricio, a rumor is in circulation here whether true or false I am unable to vouch nor have I the means of ascertaining at the moment. That Rodriques the Commandant of La Bahia is on daily habits of pass and intercourse with the population of that place, coming from and returning to, the town at pleasure, this certainly of much, of great importance indeed, to occupy that Post, we owe it to that people to protect them both from insult and liability to insult by the Enemy and we ought if possible to secure them from even the suspicion of a willingness to give countenance to the Military in any way whatever and we owe it to ourselves so to cover the border settlements as to challenge the predatory excursions of the foe, by doing this we shall multiply our friends and make a salutary impression on our enemy the forces sent to occupy and fortify that point ought to have provided a good supply of provisions for I am assured that none can be gotten there, and ought to be furnished with suitable tools for intrenching and fortifying. Spades Mattocks Pick Axes and Felling axes, a small Stock of Iron and Steel, a Blacksmiths Set of tools, a Gun Smith and tools and a waggon Maker to Enable us to have Cannon mounted whenever wanted without delay delay Guns repaired at the instant and on the Spot, and any ironwork made promptly which the Service may require, This will give active Employment will place them in view of the Enemy stimulate to action employment and show that we seek rather than avoid him

Let this be done and the first Guns of the Enemies Pickets will cause he compelled to retire in the second and in a short time may be driven beyond the Rio Grande this will give Entire protection to our Southern frontier Give us needed Subsistence of beef mules and horses on which to subsist, pack Supplies, mount our rangers and with which to work our corps.

It would not then be in the power of the enemy to spread alarm thro our whole Population, inspired by the probability or even the possibility of being surprised by the presence of an army within our borders without sufficient time advanced and notice given to rally and receive the Enemy,

A Hundred men well mounted armed and Equipped could greatly annoy and retard his movement gain time for those not in the Service to enter it Embody.

these their positions in this way the resources of a large force might be dissipated away before it could be brought to bear on that of Texas in a general Engagement, and might thus be compelled to make a precipitate and flying retreat and if in connection with these preparations a three gun battery were thrown up at the Calvano and another at Corpus Christi and both garrisoned with only a small force the whole South western frontier of Texas would be placed even out the occupation of Matamoras in as good condition perhaps to hold the Enemy in check till a regular force can be brought into the field to hold him in his den, as the richest resources of this Country will ever admit, nor will any thing short of these preparations either hold him in check or restrain him with a due Caution for his own safety the most best policy to that of dragging the Enemy after us and with him the war out of our Territory and giving him a kind Employment on this his own: is that of presenting to this view on the verge of and even within the borders of his a calm bold and menacing front- to- Language is so well understood by a belligerent as that of preparation. the meaning of this is seldom mistaken or disregarded. It is addressed to the head as well as the heart, and comes as weight and importance always entitled to respect and always to treated,

The adoption of this policy too whilst it energetic and determined prosecution is calculated to thrill the Enemy with Concern for his own safety and inclose him with fearful apprehensions for the future as well as the present will gain time for Texas to organize a government put its different departments in operation, arrange and systematize its finances weigh, measure and accurately ascertain the probable Extent and to put them in a train of active and successful Government. It will afford time too for the Government to get understandingly on the important subject of its public and vacant domain, to settle and wisely dispose of all doubtful or conflicting Claims, duely to discriminate between the appropriated and unappropriated portions, and so to arrange the use and disposition of the latter as to convert it into a blessing by making it a element to unite instead of permitting it to become the baneful Solvent of the Social fabric.

Much may we see this way be done towards diminishing limiting and impoverishing the field of future litigation and how can the Statesman better deserve or recommend himself to the confidence of his Country men than by anticipating the approach of the most afflicting Malady to which the body Politic is exposed, and by eradicating in the germ its yet dormant Elements before they have warmed and quickened into life and action. The bitterest reproach and one too the best founded ever yet preferred against the American

character, is this almost universal and unappeasable propensity to encourage and support litigation, and the willing alacrity with which they lent to, frequently waste this substance in support of this unholy and unconscionable warfare; How often alas do we see the rich became poor; the poor despoiled not of property only but of the loss of honest well earned repute, and made insensible to shame, by the havoc, the demoralizing pictures presented at the termination of a Law-suit Of what they are and the scorching remembrances of what they were! It is the duty of Government to protect the simple, the ignorant & the poor against the snares of the cunning the selfishness of the better informed, the power and oppression of the wealthy rulers it does this it is not a government of nor for, nor yet by the People. but a mere combination of the few in opposition to the many armed with the authority of the law for the common destruction and misery of the Majority

If there be as much truth as pith in the remark of a profound and acute commentator on the principles of man, "that in old and established Governments the institutions, form the men, as in the new the men form the institutions" a due sense of the remark to to which we are about assuming to act in the theatre of human affairs must naturally arrest and hold within the grasping hooks of Philanthropy the constant and most intense solicitude of the Patriot that our respective parts may be so performed as to merit the plaudits of succeeding and successful Generations, that the men who may be formed under us by them, may not only succeed to an inheritance worthy of freemen, but be made capable of transmitting it greatly improved and Strengthened and Embellished with every fresh & abiding ornament That our wishes ensure it: or make it useful to after times; One whole act of Government, says one of Mr. Jefferson papers to the King of England consists in the art of being honest.

Let us then Study this art and instead of aiming at the aggrandisement, emolument and Elevation of the few, so act, so proceed and so frame our measures as to promote for the largest time, the greatest happiness of the greatest number we shall then receive; and what is far more agreeable to the Philanthropic Patriot: we shall merit the grateful, plaudits awarded to the benefactors of Mankind.

Fort Gibson Dec 28 1833;

I am Sir
With due Consideration
and Respect Your most
obt Servant
T. Dimmitt
Capt.

New Potrieis 30 Jan. 1836

To the Navtl.
The Gen. Council of Texas

Gentlemen

S.F.Johnson to Gen. Council

I have the honor to acquaint you that. I joined the Beyar division of the Volunteer Army at Refugio on the 20 instant, but at same time regret to have to say, that much mischief has been done during my absence by the organizers both at Goliad and refugio founded on claims of the Commander in chief of the regular army to direct the movements of the volunteers, I long attach was thrown in the way of an advance into the neighbouring State, a measure tho' approved of by your Hon. body Body which was misrepresented as unauthorized and contrary to the interests of Texas- One company (M'cGintens?) was dissolved in Goliad and only a small fraction came on to the Mission, three other companies, (Cook's Burk's & Lawrence's) with the fraction allowed to remain at the mission under the impression that they were not authorized to remove with me without Express orders to that effect from Genl. Houston,

Two Companies, and a few who "segregated" from the other companies accompanied me to this place-

Such is a true but most mortifying picture of the Army of the Frontiers!! And unless an Explicit declaration is made to the leading Captains by the Executive of their being authorized to join the Expedition to the interior without reference to the orders of the Commander in Chief of the regular army, Many valuable men will be lost to the Service of Texas- And should move all those who return to their own Country will give so unfavorable an account of the unhappy dissentions arising from party Spirit as will deter many from joining in the Support of our rights and liberties,

I am still without any information of the movements of Col. Fannin and quite at a loss to account for the want of due information on this head: The Brig ships that may arise from delay at this present moment are to obvious to require any adverting to them.

By advices rec'd from Monterey upto the 18th instant, and from Matamoras upto the 20th June, the following may be said to be the present State of the Political and Military operations-

Santa Anna is in Saltillo with a force of 2 3or more, and a considerable train of heavy and field Artillery, So far on his way to invade Texas- but in consequence of the rising of liberals both in Zacatecas & Guadalajara, his supplies have been cut off his progress arrested and he seems to be at a loss whether to advance or retreat his forces are deserting daily, and he does not receive assistance to Matamoras, fearing that the troops on leaving the camp would declare against him, The army which was

collecting at Arrado; Santa 1,000 men including the remains of Col Fannin's command, have left that place for Matamoras some time back in consequence of the revolution in the interior. Matamoras may be said to be entirely defenceless, and the Genl. in Command ready to join the Liberals on their appearance, of 160 Rifles which were sent as reinforcement late in Oct. to Matamoras, I am assured that only 40 Existed, all the rest having deserted, the whole force at that place does not Exceed 200 men.

In the present state of St. Anna's army and How at this moment would free us forever from the efforts of the Centralists and leave both Texas and the northern part of the Republic in full Enjoyment of peace

Such a blow given by the Troops of Texas would raise her at once to a position in which she might dictate to her sister States. Col Gonzales is with a detachment opt the Bank of the Rio Grande opposite Mier and from the reinforcements on they way to join them, it may be safely calculated that he has about 300 men to date, The moment we move, Gonzales will start to join us near Matamoras

Much alarm has been created even among the Liberals of the adjoining States, by rumors of a desire to declare Texas Independent of the Republic of Mexico, Every step has been taken to do away with this impression both by our friends here and in the interior, as a junction of all parties would inevitably result from such a measure, and the consequence would to probably be ruinous to Texas, at this moment I deem it my duty to keep your Hon. body informed of all the matters for the guidance of the people of Texas. I hope soon to be able to lay before you a correct copy of St. Anna's plan, of his intended Campaign for your Govt. In the meantime I hope that the provisional Government & Council will be pleased to use every endeavor to augment the forces intended for the interior, and that the present inviting opportunity of carrying the war under such favorable auspices out of Texas may ever be lost,

Every mind formed to his country will see the propriety of laying aside every minor feeling arising from party or any other Spirit, and Embracing with avidity the present opportunity of insuring us peace and quiet by one effectual effort at a moment so truly auspicious

I have the Hon, to Subscribe myself with Every respt.
Your most obt & faithful Servt
F. W. Johnson

To James H. Robinson Esqr
Lieut. Governor and Ex officio
President of the General Council

Hon. Sir

To my address to your Hon. and this day to the General Council under date of yesterday, permit me to refer Your Self and them, for such general information touching

present condition of the free Negro, the character and kind of Service hereafter required on this frontier to render it an effectual Barrier to the Inroad of the Enemy beyond it as the duty which I owe to my Country and its efficient protection against Each danger and alarm seemed at once to require and imperiously impose.

I beg leave also to refer your Excellency to my two communications to his Excellency the Governor of the 21st and 24. instt, as containing information and remarks thereon of a Kindred character with the contents of the first named paper and so intimately interwoven therewith as to make them perused by the Council necessary at least to Enable its members to act understandingly, Efficiently and promptly.

For the purpose of carrying into Effect the object or End contemplated in the General Communications to wit, that of securing effectually this frontier, protecting it from insult by the Enemy and Expressing at the same time on his reluctant perception a proper regard both for our ability and will to resist the field of action I have to be Exercised by the Council the apparent liberty implied by offering for Consideration the for Having provision for a volunteer Force employed on this frontier and Provided to be guarded by an ordinance or decree of this Law. Code

I do Proposed —

1st. That the volunteers of this Command be entitled to receive 830 per month, and half a dollar per day Extra to be allowed them on fatigue for the time they have already been or may hereafter be so employed,

2nd That all now enrolled in this Command who will obligate themselves to continue in the service for the term of six months, from the date of this do obligating themselves, be clothed and equipped at the Public Expense, and instead of bounty be entitled to 320 acres of Land and that they be allowed to Elect their own officers to serve for the time proposed —

3rd That all now on furlow or parole obtained here, be allowed pay proportionally for the time they have already served, provided they return to the Service on or before Some named day; and that a certificate accompany the discharge of each volunteer Specifying the time he has actually served; noting thereon the number of days he was on fatigue and that he is entitled to draw pay accordingly which certificate and discharge to be signed by the Captains of the Company and countersigned by Comptroller conformably with Law,

4th. That the above provisions apply also to all those who may reenroll themselves by or before Some named day as above provided to the number of 500 men,

5. That those who may be wounded in and during such term of Service their Heirs Executors or by disability be Entitled to Lands the like Bounty or quantity of Land, and the heirs of such as die or are killed in and during such Service to be entitled to succeed to the rights of such deceased volunteer:

6th That such volunteers be subject for the time being, and above

subject to the rules and articles of war, and that no those of the United States of the North, actually in force there, in time of war are adopted for the Government of the army of Texas, It is important, may indispensible that three or more copies of such rules and articles be furnished at this public Expence to Each Company.

A few remarks illustrating the foregoing Proposals will shew the outline of the Sketch, also my Communications and shew the Policies of the measures,

1st The communications proposed to be allowed in this article, although above what might have understood to have been allowed is nevertheless not considered an unreasonable Concession on the part of the Government in behalf of those who called into the field by surprise & unexpectedly exposed to the prolonged pressure of the emergency, sustained a position important to this Country, and who have thus far effectually warned and protected from insult an extensive and an altogether valuable portion of our Southern Frontier, the allowance proposed to be made for extra duty or fatigue is of a different Character. In awarding a mere for exact services no Concession is made, justice and Justice only is done, The Engineer who in repairing the walls of the Square, raising and securing those of the bastions, in opening Communications thro walls from room to room, and from Each to Each of after forming ready one Entire Side of the Square for the passage of a field piece entirely under Cover and for the more effectual defence of the fortress in case of an attempt to recapture it, in making Loop & Embrasures thro the massive and strong Excavated walls of the church, to enable us to command the Square Entirely, with Cannon under complete Cover; in mounting and in dismounting the mounting of Cannon in Erecting a circular Ditch &c &c. is very Considerable, was indispensibly necessary for the defence of the fortress, and it has all been promptly and cheerfully performed, it ought to be as cheerfully and as promptly paid for.

As to the allowance of a like Compensation Extra for Laurel and fatigue duty, for the future, I cannot forbear its earnest recommendation, so great a proportion of the Public Service required on the frontier for months to come, unless a much larger force than is now contemplated should be rendered, will be necessarily Employed in constructing Forts in erecting new works, that the least neglect on the part of the government to provide for the allowance of a reasonable Compensation for the Labour requisite to finish the one and construct the others, might be followed by most serious Consequences to the protection and safety of the Country, the Compensation proposed is also equally recommended as an efficient means of filling out and retaining in Service the force then provided with Enlisted men any to Keep the Enemy at Bay.

2d The Country in time here proposed, with the privilege of electing officers are believed to be the only inventions upon the Existing

regulations embraced in this article, both however are regarded as necessary stimulants to bring into the field the requisite of persons force with the desired promptitude, and for the time called for, the Enemy ought not to be permitted to cross this Rivers again— and if he neglects to do so for thirty days longer, and then passes it, the Situation of the Texian Revolution must trace the deplorable consequences to other causes than that of his superior generalship strength or powers I am informed and do verily believe that by tomorrow evening not Even the family will be left within the limits of this Town, they have either gotten information of or confidently anticipated the speedy approach of our marching force, and our numbers are too few to them Considered in our ability to hold out 'til we can be reinforced, least weak as we are, we are in much greater danger of a reverse or want of ammunition and provisions than for that of men, our whole Stock of ammunition would not last two hours, if our artillery should be engaged as it doubtless would be— and as to subsistence we are literally living like other poor people from hand to mouth

3d This article is so interwoven with and dependent upon the succeeding that it will be very likely to stand or fall with its predecessors, and therefore requires no comment.

4th As the remarks on the second article apply to this, and such it is considered unnecessary either to enlarge or add any further,

5th As the proposals contained in this article are understood to be in Strict conformity with the regulations already in force It is presumed that no objection will be made to its adoption an account of any thing contained in it, heretofore or peculiar to itself and it is therefore dismissed without further remark,

6th This article pleads its own importance, and as its entire adoption is deemed requisite to the efficient Execution and success of its predecessors, its fate is considered as wholly dependent on theirs, and is therefore more recommendatory with its more questionable, but I hope not more questioned associates to the favorable regard of the Lieut Governor, and General Council of Coahuila Country

Fort of Goliad Dec 29 1835.

I am Sir
with due respect &
Consideration
Your obt. Pub Servant
J. R. Fannin

Bejar Jany. 2d. 1836

Gl. and Friends of the
Executive council of Texas

H. Smith
to
Comdr. Esteemed, and dear friends assembled to frame your body into such a disorganized situation, such institutions in the general concerns of Texas, these sad tendencies, they create distrust and alarm, and at this critical period of our History are unable to be Executed, I do hope however to hear of a reasonable relation of matters, our Government upholdens to be without a systematic head and uncertainty of action, is certainly necessary to answer the ends and to effect the objects contemplated by the Constitution,

I Enclose you a copy of the proceedings of a meeting held in this place, 26th ult. which will carry to your hands Data of the feelings of this army on the subject,

I also Enclose to you the orders of the Commandant of the post of Bexar to his subaltern, Every Courier from the west, seems to corroborate the previous statements in relation to the preparation of the Mexicans for war

I remain Your obt Servt
H. Smith
Col. Comd Bejar

(Copy Translation)

The Genl in Chief of the 1st Division operating against Texas, to his Sub-alterns— Camp at Arroyo in Arms—

You are going to open a campaign the most difficult that a Mexican Army can have before them—

You have made the country independent of the Spanish Government and with standing the right that Government has, in appearance over you, How then will you now permit that your country shall be ruined by a few audacious Colonists who pretend to make themselves our rulers and Dictators, in Exchange for the Hospitality they have received— As Soldiers! I see your Countrymen full of indignation against these perfidious men— The Genl in Chief— the illustrious Conqueror of Tamaulipas has distinguished us by placing us in the Van guard, let us prove ourselves worthy of his confidence and fly to show those men that the Mexicans are in Character as valiant in peace as steadfast in War— Let your duty and Discretion the daring of these Cowards and show to the world that there is no power can subjugate us! Soldiers! we are going to defend our Independence, our Religion, our Convents, and our Homes! for every time to avoid the Coast of those infamous invaders to Sacrifice the adventurous ones; Fly citizens to defend such sacred objects, Assemble that your Enemies shall find a Grave— That victory will be yours, and that in the Middle of privations Your Chief & friends will be in the Van—

Bustillo

Joaquin Romero Saldana

Head Quarters, Commandancy of Bejar, Jany 6. 1835.

Capt Harrell to Council

Gen Council of Texas

We have this morning received an Embassador from the Comanche Nation, who informs us that his nation is in an attitude of hostilities towards us. They are however willing to treat with us and propose to cease hostilities for 20 days for that purpose and suggest that each party shall furnish five Commissioners to form a treaty of amity, Commerce and Limits, I would suggest that Francisco Ruiz & Don Jasper Flores of this place be named as two of the Commissioners, they are familiar with the Comanche character and have acted in the Capacity of negotiators to that nation. They propose to hold the Treaty at this place at the time above mentioned. Should it be hoped that no time will be lost in the completion of an object involving such vital importance —

I remain Gentl. &c.

E. Steele.

Lt. Col. Comdg.

San Felipe Jan. 7 1836

J.M. Johnson to Council

To the Genl Council of Texas.

In consequence of many applications for Commissions for the officers of the Volunteer Companies from the United States and for those raised in Texas subsequent to mine I am induced again to address you —

Were I to consult my own feelings, I would probably indulge in a strain altogether different from what I shall, but knowing as I do the irritable state of the Public mind, and however much I may be disposed it is, to contest the right you have to act. I refrain, and I am content to bear in my own bosom all cause of complaint what I may have on my own account, and although I cannot but feel the unkindness & illiberality, not say injustice with which many of the citizens have treated I yet shall not recur to it, and instead of entering complaints I have only to say, that I shall form one in the unterrified Expedition and do all that I can for the safety and protection of Texas, and desire no other or Compensation for myself. If by my Efforts Texas is benefited I shall be well satisfied and it will never be a cause of complaint to me, that others may wear the Laurels.

On the 17 Dec. last I addressed a letter to the Executive Government, relative to the condition of the army at Bejar, then under my Command, in which Communication I endeavored to set forth the reasons requesting for them Commissions expressly to serve as Officers and in accordance with the request previously made to my two predecessors that such should be done, I would not but hope that the request was made in Candor especially as

Wm Barrison and the officers under him were commissioned upon application those officers having resigned. new ones were appointed, but although I as Commanding officer certified the fact the commissions were given, from why, this has been the case I am unable to say, I know of no offence committed by myself or the officers and men under my command indeed it was that in opposition to the wishes of many I set out of the Army and in the field me dared to attempt the Storm of Bexar, and gallantly planted our Standard on its walls, the volunteers who did appointed me to the command were of Texas and men from the United States who had come here for no other purpose than to aid the cause of Texas, they would not join the regular army, and as there was no immediate Call for their services and they were anxious to be engaged in active operations and having received the official directions of the Military committee of the date of the 6. ult. requesting that a march in Matamoras might be made, I yielded to their desires and ordered a March on Matamoras. In this as in all other acts of my public life I had solely the interest of the Country at heart and was unwilling that Matamoras should be taken, unless I had Commissions from your body, then acts would be those of Texas and be any subject to your orders and as such when Matamoras should be taken that the public property be yours and the revenues sufficient in a short time to defray the heavy Expences the war has created, - Without Commission my detachment would be necessarily annihilated to act under color of authority from some Mexican authority and consequently in the fall of Matamoras the public property and revenues, and the plan itself would fall into the hands of the Liberals and not yours, and by that means Texas would loose the benefit arising from the possession of the place, and also an actual amount of money arising from the Customs sufficient to pay our public debt, a matter of great importance at this time.

Moved by these considerations I proceeded to this place and on the 3d instant addressed you a letter, informing you of my intention and requested Commissions for the officers whose name I reported, to you the most of whom I had previously reported to the Governor requesting Commissions which were entended Oh it is a matter of great regret that you have also declined granting the Commissions required, Not regret arising from any individual considerations, for I assure you that I have no feeling on my own account, but I regret it because I saw aware your refusal it would calculated to alienate their feelings from the Cause of Texas, Be assured it drives them to the necessity of electing authority from some Liberal General in the interior and Should Matamoras be taken deprive Texas of the benefit five hundred and thirty men and lastly an important acquisition to Texas and ought not to be cut off -

They consider they have good cause of Complaint inasmuch as the officers elected Under Gen. Burleson were Commissioned, and inasmuch as they occupy the same ground now as then, it may be necessary for me to allude to my letter of the 6. inst. withdrawing My proposition for authority to proceed against Matamoras, Your Body will recollect that my communication was not made to you until it was distinctly ascertained that it would not be granted & in order to clear away all obstructions, I withdrew my proposition to enable you to take that course that might meet the views of you.

My surprise on reading your decree to night I will not disguise you great, by that decree you invite the volunteers engaged in that Expedition as part of the auxilliary troops, and by that means lead the door in the Party under my command which had already distinctly communicated to you that they would not serve as any part of the regular army, & in that decree you also confer authority on another to lead the Expedition against Matamoras Which you determined you had not the right to confer on me, & this moment I do not complain, the officer you have appointed is every way worthy & I have no doubt will prove himself entitled to your Mark of Distinction, In conclusion Gentlemen, I have to say that I shall still proceed on the Expedition as I first contemplated, and my every act shall have for its object, Texas and the Constitution.

Considering however the peculiar situation of the volunteers under my Command, recollecting their generous, disinterested and gallant services in the cause of Texas, I yet would suggest, that some representation be made to them explaining why their commissions have not been Extended, and the reason why an agent has been appointed in the manner contemplated in your decree, such an Explination may have the Effect of satisfying them and securing for Texas their services In this I sincerely hope that such will be the result, I am

Respectfully Your
obt. Servt.
J. R. Johnson

Head Quarters Volunteer Army
of Texas Nov 18. 35

Edward Burleson
to
Pro. Govt.

The Provisional Govt.

I have the honor of communicating to you the particulars of an action which took place yesterday between the Mexicans and a portion of this army,

Early yesterday morning I dispatched Genl Austin & Wm to reconnoiter & west of Bexar to ascertain whether or not any which was Effected by the Mexicans were advancing or not, about 11 o'clk Col Smith one of the Spies returned to Camp

in great haste stating that an Enemy of about one hundred & fifty men were approaching town and about 2 miles distant. Immediately Ordered out from 35 to 40 Cavalry under Command of the Capitans and inspector Genl. James Bowie & Col. McCaek with about 100 Infantry. I moved six days after with with a few men mounted on Horse back and joined the Infantry, We marched on West of town the infantry leading a rest on the Branch, Col Bowie who was some distance in advance came up with the grand party which had been Mistaken by our Spies for the Enemy as they were crossing the head of a creek Charged down them and Commenced the action on the Bank; after two or 3 fires Col. Bowie drew his men under Cover of the Creek and kept up the fight, the Enemy charged them with over three times his number but were immediately repulsed with Considerable loss, about this time a Considerable reinforcement Came up; The main body of our force at the firing between Col Bowie & the Enemy Came up very briskly & came in contact with the reinforcement and a very severe engagement took place between the main body of our army and the reinforcement, during the action it was ascertained that a party of Mexicans Consisting of forty or fifty men, were firing on a party with Col. Johnson from under Cover; Col Rusk discovering them Called out for a party to charge on them and rout them, he made the Charge with about 15 men and routed them from this Cover The main force of our army then reinforced by Col. Bowie and his party Charged the Enemy and drove them back about 300 yards towards town during this time the Enemies reinforcements were Constantly coming from town, the Infantry up a Common and fired upon our force at a distance not Exceeding 140 to 150 yds. we still maintained our ground, They again returned with two Cannon & about 300 yards & then returned with two Cannon shot of town, and gave us all they could, our force then took a position on the bed of a creek and formed to continue the Engagement; the Enemy however returned into town.

Col. Labadie, the acting adjt. Genl. acted with great bravery and Coolness Encouraging the men at every point of the Genl. Engagement. Col. Rusk. & Lieut. Col Somerville, Capts Kuykendall, Kerr, Ally, Coleman & Wallace Bradley & Lieut. Roberts & Seal of the infantry were engaged in the action and in relation to the Conduct of officers & men, I have but one remark & that is that none could have fought more heroically, the dead of the Enemy were lying very considerable distance when found dead on the field & seven wounded, they were seen carrying off a General during the Engagement, many more must have been Killed & Wounded, the ground on which the battle was fought was so. Extending that it was not practicable Especially for Bowie who Commanded the action to ascertain the loss of the Enemy is upwards of 60 men.

Our loss is one man killed &

and fully reconciled to the Management of the Artillery of the N.W. group - included his first duty in the action with bravery that reflects much credit on himself and the gallant Corps with which he was connected to during the Engagement & receive Commanding now Refer my Testimony to the Merits of our Encampment

Edward Burleson
Commander in Chief of the Volunteer Army

W.P. Austin
Aid de Camp

Camp near Bexar

To Edward Burleson Comdr in Chief of the Volunteer Army of Texas

W.P. Jack to Genl. Burleson

Sir

I have the honor to report that in pursuance of your order on yesterday I took up the line of March with detachments of Infantry from different Companies amounting in the aggregate to about one hundred men for the purpose of intercepting the Expected convoy, we pursued at a brisk trot to the Creek, which the cold, rain and sleet was forded by the men with the greatest cheerfulness-

Shortly after crossing one of my Scouts reported that there was firing ahead between our Cavalry under command of Col Bowie & a party of the Enemy-

Our march was continued in double quick time for about half an hour when we arrived near the Scene of Action-we were advancing in tolerable good order and in double file, when we were Saluted from the distance of forty to Sixty yards by a tremendous discharge of musquetry along our whole line from an unexpected and concealed foe-

It was immediately ascertained that the Enemy were concealed in a ditch and completely hidden by the thick Musquit Bushes, a second and third heavy fire was received and returned when the order for a charge was given by the Asst. Adjt. Genl. (Col. Subtitle) which was Executed with promptness, alacrity and determined Courage-

The first division flanked to the right and the second to the left and in a few moments the ditch and field were cleared of every Mexican Except their dead and wounded,

The firing still continued along the line with very considerable warmth, until the Enemy after three discharges from their Cannon with grape and Canister retired under the protection of their Cavalry in town leaving us in quiet possession of the field-

I would be unjust to particularize as to the conduct

of the officers and men under my command on this occasion, Suffice it to say that Each man do far as my observation Extended did what I Expected of him, The only Cause of Complaint arose from this impetuosity—

My feelings however will not permit me to close without noticing the gallant conduct of the aged Veteran Capt. James Bowie, He flew from one end of this field to the other Encouraging us as to the conflict and contributed in a most eminent manner to the successful result which followed,

The loss of the Infantry is one killed missing and three very Slightly wounded. The foregoing is conceived to be a sufficient report inasmuch as you were present at every point of the Scene of Action performing alike the duties of a General and a Soldier

I have the Hon. to be
Your obt. Servt.
Wm. B. Travis

Hospital Department Bexar
Dec. 17th 1835

To the Provisional Government of Texas,

A correct detail of all the Killed and wounded at the Seige of Bexar, Commencing on the 5th Inst. (morning) and Ending on the morning of the tenth.

	Names -	Killed -	Wounded -	
Col	B. Rabb Evans	Killed		
	Francis Harvey -	do	Capt	Bowies Comp.
	E. F. Pulham	Severely wounded	"	Cooks "
	James Mebeher	" "	"	Bowies "
	C. B. Legare	" "	"	Cooks "
	Thos M. Ward	right leg amputated	Artillery	"
	John Cook	Mortal	"	"
	George Alexander	"	"	"
	Pat Lair	Slightly wounded	Infantry	"
	Samuel C Everitt	Severely "	"	"
Lieut.	George W. Main	" "	Brees	"
	James Adams	" "	Cooks	"
	Dr Pritchison	" "		
Capt	John W. Peacock	" "		
	Alexander Abrams	" "	"	"
	Wm Thomas	" "	Bowies	"
	James M Cain	" "	"	"
	Eraclius Smith	Slightly wounded	Pilot	
	John Axtel	" "	Cooks	"
	John Hall	Severely wounded	"	"
	John Baldwin	" "	"	"

We the undersigned Surgs had Special charge of the Hospitals at Bexar from the Commencement of the Siege at said Bexar up to the present date, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true Statement of number Killed & wounded at the above Siege.

We deem this Council necessary in consequence as we are about to return from the Army to our respective Homes This the 19th Dec. 1835

Samuel Stivers
Surgeon to Comd Dept

Amos Pollard M.D.
Surgeon of Regt.

To His Ex. Henry Smith
Gov. of the Free and Sovereign State of Texas

Ex. Sir

One day only has elapsed since the receipt at this place of the first news of the proceedings of our Convention Even though the Columns of a news paper since its organization, And Even now we have no other! The little band that Entered this fortress on the night of the 9th incurred a high and solemn responsibility, Their objects when they took up the line of March were to take this Fort before Col. Bowie should have left for Bexar, and after they heard of his having left believing that he would be intercepted by a detachment from above and compelled to fall back on Goliad it was deemed of great importance to occupy the post before he would reach it.

The determination to take the post was therefore instantly formed, the line of march resumed and the movement crowned with complete success, But the failure of any detachment from above to move as we have been assured Some one would be cut off his movement on Bexar with the paltry force of 30 men enabled Col to throw himself into that place, and the subsequent forbearance of the main army to push it marches, assault and Storm that place when Panic Struck by the loss of this and by the approach of a large force, have, as of Controlled by Some malignant Star resulted in a train of evils, well Calculated to test the firmness of the Stoutest hearts; and even result in the prolongation of the present Campaign til the Enemy will have had time not only to reinforce and relieve Col Ben L Bowie, into the Country a powerful army to discomfit another.

But altho the first and even the Second object proposed in the out set to be achieved by the capture of this post Entirely failed, nevertheless, the quantity of supplies taken have Enabled us to lend Considerable aid in ammunition, flour, Sugar Coffee &c. to relieve the necessities of the main army before

Bexar, We have also been enabled to furnish supplies of subsistence to the most of the families that were removed from the Mission of Refugio to Guadeloupe for safety whose husbands are in the service at this Post, But are am no longer pursue this policy. Our stock is nearly consumed both of ammition and subsistence and our volunteers are suffering for winter clothing on the 9th inst I dispatched Maj. Genl M Culloch with to the East for a supply of clothing and ammition with letters to the Committees of Safety of Matagorda, Columbia Brazoria and Gonzales but no return answer, or other information from this Gentlemen or touching the business confided to him has yet been received.

A careful Examination of the above will conduct you to a tolerable knowledge of our present situation, and your Ex. will also include the facts omitted above, that 15 of the force here are now on the sick list some of them dangerously ill- that soon after the occupation of this post the sore tongue became general among our horses and having no corn when this complaint had visited nearly all to recruit and put them in a thriving condition most of our animals are now unfit for Service and some have died. Indeed if attacked now by a large force I could neither hope to make a successful defence nor should I have the means of making a safe retreat. This is a Matter of our Situation, The Eye of Every one is now turned on the Gov. Convention for supplies of subsistence of ammunition &c. &c.

I have the honor to forward you herewith copies of two papers from Matamoras Taken by Captain Turner, Semphatico from a Courier of the Enemy and read here last Evening by Express, one of them is a printed Circular of the Enemy announcing the arrival, Landing, Occupation of the Castle of Sanpedro (a battle &c) by Genl. Mexia with 900 men from the U States, The other is a letter from the late Commander of the Garrison at La Pantelan to the wife of one O'Daugherty residing in Sanpatricio, The husband of this woman is known to have been the leader of the Irish partizans of Centralism in this Country and his wife is said to lead him and legislate for all.

I Enclose also a copy of a letter from Capt Turner, containing information of the present State of affairs there,

Two Gentlemen, Cayetano Moro & Juan Veroet, the former recently attached to the Corps of Engineers in Genl Filisolas Division; the latter a merchant of Matamoras as they respectively report themselves, arrived at this Post direct from Mier on the Grand River day before yesterday, both appear to be Gentlemen of respectability and warmly attached to Liberal principles, The first named claims Italy the latter France as the places of their respective nativity.

They state that 14 days ago there were 700 men at Laredo bound for Texas and waiting there for the arrival of $30,000 then on the way from Matamoras to Bexar under an Escort of 50 men, and that as soon as they should arrive all were to take up the line of march for Ex.

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In case this force should visit Goliad in Stephenys to Bexar
Or rather Bratt a feint on that and actually proceed this, unless
reinforced in the mean time we shall be too few in number
to do more than sell ourselves for as many of the enemy
as we can without even a prospect of repulsing the attack
and compelling him to retire

Yours very Respectfully.

P. L. Smith

Fort of Goliad Dec. 2. 1835.

San Patricio 30. of Nov. 1835

Capt P. Dimitt

My dear Sir

I have a few moments ago taken down
dispatches from the Mexicans which I have sent you, concerning
that they contained information of importance to you,

I think from the information contained in them you will
see the necessity of your assistance here, we have neither men nor
means to withstand any force that may be sent against us as the people
are still divided; therefore I hope under these distressing circumstances
you will send us some reinforcements with all possible dispatch.

The Commandante of La Pantelan has written a letter to
us, disavowing the authorities of this place elected since the
Battle and closed it by inviting us to join his ranks, & if we did
not, that the vengence of the Mexican Army will be poured upon us,
But there is still a remnant of Patriots who wish to support the Constitution, and would prefer death, to Slavery, Please give us all the news you
can of the proceedings of the army at Betar and Cleardeno, Reports have
come to us yesterday that a party of Mexicans were in Revos in Arms for the
Cause of Liberty, Perhaps you may have some information on this subject
more correct than ours

Nothing more at present, but remain

Yrs &c

John Turner,

P.S. God & Liberty

Please not be mistaken, we have neither men nor breads and no place
to procure, Some must come from your quarter, as there is none to be
had here at any price, and our men are too few to spare to send in pursuit
of it.

Yrs in haste

J. T.

J. J. Rusk
to
M. Robinson.

At Camp above Bexar 25 Nov 1835

Dear Sir

Your last letter to me providing the support of the Genl
Council to the Army now in the field before Bexar we have had
difficulties which many but those who have been Engaged in them
could well know, They are now reduced down to about 350

men who have agreed to remain before this place we are out of provisions, we need Clothing Shoes and ammunition and. such as Cannon and. Mortars, Scaleing the Walls would be the death of many many worthy men, The Enemy will be very shortly reinforced by large numbers- We must be reinforced ourselves, unless the Country are willing to see this army cut off, Your Letter has had great influence in inducing these people to remain, Them must not leave them to their fate without Efentions-

We have suffered much for the last few days with cold, I am now half frozen while I write

I am Your most Obt.
Sam Houston.

Head Quarters Texas
San Felipe de Austin-
Jan 4th 1836

To His Ex. Henry Smith
Governor of Texas

Sam Houston to comply:

I have the honor Respectfully to report call your attention to the Subject of a Speedy organization of the regular army. The organic Law has provided for the immediate raising of such force, and the Genl Council has said what Corps shall Compose the Same it is required of me to raise the regular army without delay I feel the responsibility of our situation at a time when every effort should be Exerted and means used for the accomplishment of an object so necessary to the defence, and I apprehend the Salvation of Texas. I must remain under the conviction that all Essential power is withheld from me to meet the requisitions of the organic Law.

It is true the Company officers of the infantry regiment appointed by the Hon General Council but the field officers proper to command and superintend the Several recruiting rendezvous have not been appointed-

The Regiment of Artillery so necessary for the defence of our sea Coast as well as for field Service has no basis on which it can be raised no officers are appointed and it will be impossible for one ever to enlist the rank & file of the Army until the officers are appointed-

An army never has been raised for regular Service until the officers have been appointed, The regiments of the United States army were all completely officered before one man was Enlisted in the ranks, It cannot be objected that merit will be forestalled by filling the General Corps at this time it was have been contemplated by the framers of the organic Law that if an army would be immediately organized out of the materials then in Texas,

It. then seems the only Course which is left to be pursued, to accomplish the object designed in the formation of a regular army,

Unless the officers are appointed at an Early day it will be impossible to have an army at the opening of the Campaign which can in my opinion be delayed with Safety to the Country longer than the

February or the first day of March at furthest.
If only a portion of the Officers should be appointed, I apprehend the organization of the army will be incomplete and the intention of the Law will not be answered, the necessities of the Country seem to require a complete organization.

We must have an army or abandon all hopes of defending the Country, the letters recently intercepted from Genl. Santa Anna's the functionaris of the General Government are calculated to encourage every generous heart in Texas: to active and obstinate resistance, an army of the Enemy amounting to two thousand men with Suitable munitions of war must be met and vanquished or Texas will be overwhelmed for years to come.

Union and confidence among ourselves and a generous support of the army will achieve every thing that is desireable to freemen.

Until the full complement of officers is appointed of the regular army it is impossible that one can be raised, I take pleasure in assuming your Excellency that I will at all times hold myself accountable for the means placed at my disposal designed for the defense of the Country and the success of our cause but it must be obvious to all that in the same ratio in which the necessary and proper means are withheld from me my responsibility must be diminished Permit me to implore you most earnestly to give your attention to the Subjects herein very Respectfully Submitted

I have the Honor to be
Your obt. Servt.
Sam. Houston
Comd. in chief of the Army

Commandancy of Bexar Jany. 6. 1836

To the Governor & Council
at San Filipe de Austin

Sirs

Rec'd
To
Council

Having informed officially the Commander in Chief of the Federal Army of Texas at Washington the condition and situation of my Command I deem it my unfeigned duty to make it correspondingly represented to you, as far as regards the Local intercourse existing between the civil authorities the citizens and our army. Every thing has been harmonious since the command has devolved upon me, to my great satisfaction, and far beyond my most sanguine expectations.

You have doubtless heard from various sources of the Battle rule of the aids-de-camp of Genl C Burleson, J. P. Johnson and James Grant, the town was surrendered on the 9th dec. and so long as they remained there was not a move made by them to restore or organize Harmony or re-establish in civil functions of Government

which Continued up to the 26 ult. and on that day the Command devolved upon me, and during that day and the next through the act of Brig Gl. B. Jamison I had on the first day of this month all of the Civil Functions of this Department put in power under the Constitution of 1824, and all things are now conducted on a permanent basis, the army aids and sustains the Civil authority, aids it in getting horses and such supplies as the greatly impoverished vicinity affords

It will be appalling to you to learn and see herewith enclosed our alarming weakness. But I have one pleasurable gratification which will not be erased from the tablet of my memory during natural life, that they whose names are herewith enclosed, are to a man those who acted so gallant in the 8 weeks often fields Campaigne, and threw down an unparalleled victory in the fine days sight of this place, such men in such a Condition, and all the glowing embarrassments surrounding, Calls aloud upon you and this Country for aid & Sympathy

We have 184 men, and two distinct fortresses to garrison and about 24 pieces of artillery, Gen Gaines knows, that we have no provisions or clothing in this garrison since Johnson & Grant left & there has ever been a dollar here, I have no knowledge of it. the Clothing sent here by the aid, and patriotic Exertions of this Gen. Comm'd was taken from us by the arbitrary measures of Johnson & Grant taken from Men who Endured all the hardships of winter and who were not even sufficiently clad for Summer, many of them have but one blanket and one Shirt, and what was intended for them, given away to men some of whom, who had not been in the army more than 4 months & many not Exceeding two weeks - of a Garrison. Let them have all of them the most part of my men could have made comfortable by the stocks of clothing and provisions taken from here.

About 200 of the men who volunteered to garrison this town for 4 months left my Command contrary to my special orders, & thereby vitiated the policy of this Enlistment and should not be entitled to neither, Compensation nor an honorable discharge, leaving this garrison destitute of men and at all times within 8 or 10 days march of an overwhelming Enemy, and at all times great danger was apprehended from apprehending from want of Civil order and Government among the lower Class of the Mexicans holding left us, they have not been left here for our Government, our English treaty of this Treaty, so (desperately made).

I count here for this garrison at all times 200 men and I think 300 until the repairs and improvements of the fortifications is completed a chart an index of which has been sent to Head Quarters at Washington with the present condition of the Fort and such improvements suggested by Gen Jamison as has met my approbation and I hope will be accorded by my Commander

As I have stated to you before our exact situation here I know you will make no delay to ameliorate our condition

The men have not even money to pay them anything, the Hospital is also in want of Stores and even the necessary provisions for such men. It was not left the wounded by Grant and Johnson had as many in hosts. The men have been here many of them more than three months, and some of them have not had a dollar during this time.

I shall say to you as I have said to my Commander-in-Chief. The deeds of Maj Harrison, to this Army and to his Country cannot be too highly appreciated, the present army owes in a great part its Existence to his Exertions and management, and so far as I am concerned in my command, I assure you I cannot get along without him. I hope he will be contented in the Army.

There are many Subjects that occuring to the mind of this letter being on the Eve of leaving that has passed my attention of which you should be advised, and I will from time to time give you such information as may transpire here (.) and hope that you will use all the Exertions necessary in your power to stimulate the men now under my command to remain and to award to each and Every one of them such praise as your patriotism may dictate. And Particularly recommend to Your notice the officers now under my Command.

I further add that owing to our having no communication with the interior that we know not what day or hour an Enemy of vast in Number may be down upon us, and as we have no supplies of provisions within the fort we could be starved out in 4 days by any thing like a close Siege

I will say all to you I know about the feelings of the Citizens of this place on the subject of Independence, they know not whose hands they may fall into, but if we had a force here that they knew could sustain them, I believe they would be 3/4 Americans and go for Independence, and claim all to the Rio del Norte, as they know we want it and will have it.

The Extents to which the impressment of cattle and horses, has been carried to by Johnston and Grant, has been the cause of great complaint and very much distress among the poorer Class of the inhabitants as several of them have been deprived of the means of Cultivating this Crop for the Ensuing Spring, and which is their only means of support owing to their Cattle being taken from them

I beg leave to tender to his Excellency the Governor & the Honorable Council, the high regard I have for their patriotic Exertions in sustaining the present Federal Army of Texas in my own name and also in the name of all those I have the honor to command at this Post, and subscribe myself

Your obt Servant

J. C. Neill

Lt Col. Commanding

P.S. The Troops who engaged to garrison this place for the term of 4 months did so with an understanding that they were to be paid monthly and unless money comes in time three several of them will return home,

I am just informed that a privateer Lance that are one thousand Troops now on their march from Loredo towards this place, Should I receive any further information as to this proceedings or destination I will advise you without loss of time by Express

J.C. Neill
Lt. Col Comdg

Fort Sterling Dec. 17. 1835

To the Hon. Gen. Council of Texas in Session at San Felipe de Austin,

Gentlemen

Through much difficulty I have Engaged about Sixty of the rangers under my Superintendance, several of them have lost their horses, and the horses continues dying so that it is Extremely difficult to keep horses for them, I find many difficult to procure provisions, indeed I cannot Engage any beef or pork for them tho there is plenty in the country, such is the indifference of the people as to the cause of Texas, I know no other channel but to go to those that has to spare, and have them valued myself and the people of our vicinity has turned out all the beef that we had, the amount of which I shall make out in my next, I have drawn about 1000 lbs lead & 1/2 Keg of powder from Mr Scott, The Indians has committed no depredations since my last, the boys are zealously engaged and I hope there labors will be of the most vital importance to those peerless adventurers that has reclaimed this fertile country from savage hands,

Pardon me Gentlemen, to suggest the propriety of Establishing a mail route from Washington to Nacca, as the cost of sending Expresses is considerable, and it would afford a great satisfaction to have the public news at any rate conveyed to our seat of Justice, As I have furnished the principles part of the provision for the campaign myself I will make out a full account of Expenditure in my next

Very Respt'ly
&c.
Silas M. Parker
Superint'd

Head Quarters
Camp Filisola de Austin 20 Nov 1835

To
His Excellency
The Governor
&
The Civil Council of Texas

Gentlemen I have the honor to inclose for
your information a report of Sub Lieutenant Castaneda detailing the circumstances
attending the surrender of La Bahia on the night of the 9th
inst. in terminating the same I feel much pleasure in the Expression
of my approbation in favor of the conduct and bravery of the officers & men
who have so gallantly acquitted themselves in the affair and do
sincerely congratulate for themselves and Glory for this Country —
I have the honor to be your
Obedient Servant
Sam Houston
Maj Genl & Comd
in Chief of the Army —

To
His Excellency
Sam Houston
Sir

In obedience to the Order of Capt P. Dimitt
I left Goliad with myself at the head of thirty seven and take up the
line of march for the Presidio of La Bahia at the Hours, attacked
& Defeated which I proceeded by way of the Mission of Refugio & my
command were on account in having spilled and at the Mission by contrary
the number of Days one night was before the attack made to our
Enemies Place of Retention, in the Neighborhood of Cox Fathers one hundred
and Fifty Rifle of the Enemy at the above named place were out in
Search of us in Consequence of this information, we Marched by forced
marches and on Saturday and entered the place on the morning of the 9th about
half an hour after Daylight, each of the Mexicans at the Point of the Rifles
Citizens, two friends of the enemy Commanded by Col Ugartechea
the Texian was Killed, seventeen Citizens, & Sixty Seven of the Enemy
Troops Some of them Mexicans, the Rest of which, Twelve
in Number by Flight Six are Prisoners, in the Power of the Texians and
Seventeen in the Mission and Citizens the Enemy.

The Prisoners so in the Fort and Citizens Town to surrender if we
would Retire from the Fort we Refused and did not the Fort surrendered at
Discretion on Condition of being Safe & Secure Quarter and not to take
up Arms against the Government the next Seven were in the Fort
four of them were Texians, four Citizens and Seventeen from
the Presidio, some from Refugio and others from the Mission were at-
tached to the Mexican Troops, and were in Pieces of Canon belonging
to Captain Bellinelli & Lieutenant Patrick and made Retire from
the Fort.

We remained in quiet Possession of the Town until
Sunday Morning the 8th, Reinforcements came to assist the Citizens

of the Enemy immediately in the neighborhood of the town as soon as the troops were put in motion Genl or Capt of the Enemy advanced a view watching our movements, who soon ended immediately to Cross the River leaving Lt. men on the high Ground to watch the Enemy once after Crossing about 1/2 of our men over the river in advance the and means of Crossing, and most the horses were drove over, once was then sent down to the River that the Enemy was coming down with all the force to attack us, Seventy three in number we met them with our little force on the top of the bank Skirted with Some timber which we took advantage of, the Enemy came up in front and made a move from the center around our flanks on the River leaving a few men under cover of a mound in front of the Enemy on our right flank dismounted and took the advantage of the timber, as on the wing of the Road to San Patricio three of which were wounded viz: the Judge, Alcalde & Sheriff.

The action lasted thirty two minutes when they retreated leaving us in possession of the ground which we reconnoitered and shot off Eight of their horses and one of them wounded viz: the Alcalde as above mentioned.

From the last information we could obtain there were 28 killed wounded and missing of the Enemy. Lieut. Macelleo Garcia was mortally wounded and died the 2d day after the action, one had both arms Broken and Lieut Baker injured. Sergt. Bracken who had 3 fingers shot off from his right hand and the other fractured with the same Ball

I had previously sent to San Patricio for a team to move the artillery the 4 pounder was sent across the River previous to the action but in Consequence of a heavy shower of rain and cold wind from the North the men were very much chilled, and night approaching and no team coming, I together with Capt Kerr James Kline & James Powers who rendered me Signal Service advised the propriety of throwing the artillery in the River and it was accordingly done so

The men all fought bravely and those on the opposite Bank of the river were Enabled to operate on the flanks of the Enemy above and below the Crossing which duty did with fine Effect

Head Nov 15. 1836

Pra Westover
Adjt.

No 16

Velasco 21 Janry. 1836

His Exy James W. Robinson Secy.
of W. Farmer & Genl. Council of Texas.
to
Robinson

I send this Courier now yesterday to make a limited report of our proceedings up to that date and can now only confirm the same by saying that I think we will sail for Copano this evening if the State of weather will admit of our Crossing the Bar I have at this place about 250 men and near or in visit at Matagorda 250, who came out on the Brutus and under command of Capt Shackelford from North Alabama, our fleet will all also all go down Aransas in Company; & god willing & the weather fair I hope to make a favorable report to you from Copano by the 27 inst.

I have employed the Schr Columbus & Three as Lighters, being of light draught of water and can pass up to the landing in safety, I shall take the two four lbs: brass field Pieces, left by Genl. Mexia & two others pieces to be left for the use of the fortifications, directed to be erected at Copano, I have sent forward, proper officers to procure and have in readiness Carts and Teams to transport the necessary provisions & Camp Equipage and direct that no delay shall be experienced in making rapid progress to the point of destination

With regard to any anticipated difficulties with the Genl. in Chief, you must have no sort of Solicitude and I shall never make any myself, the object in view will be the governing principle and should Genl S— be ready and willing to take Command and march direct ahead and execute your orders and the volunteers are willing to submit to it or a reasonable part of them, I shall not say nay— but will do all in my power to produce harmony & concert of action and will go forward in any safe way.

You will all observe we have already too much dissension and one cause of complaint is this very Expedition, and that it is intended to displease Genl S— not one member of your body, or any man living can impute to me such motive by any past act or word, and I am resolved that no future one shall be so intended, But rest assured of one thing I will go when you have Sent me, and will do what you have ordered me, if possible

Let me again call your attention to ordering all of our provisions to Copano as also volunteers— Inform our agents and Commercial men in N. Orleans that they may ship there, also the fortifying ny of Galveston Island and the Passo Cavallo at Matagorda Bay there are sufficient Cannon there to do it and prevent the Enemy taking possession & making a descent in the heart of the Country and destroying our towns and Commerce, a Company at each place will be amply sufficient for all present use and by Artificial and the use of the Rifle bags they may at hand there fortifications can be erected which will

forbid the disembarkment of an hostile force on our shores, volunteers for one or two months for the Express occasion can be raised and these are the only safe defendance to be relied on at present, It is folly to speak of waiting for Regular Troops to do it you may rely upon it that we will not have one in ten thousand of them in Texas by any and of this Expedition provided as contemplated you need not reason it.

I am forced to say that I dread a large Regular army in this Country or any auxiliary one of volunteers, if commanded & used as contemplated by some.

I have just a letter from His Ex. Henry Smith. Governor of Texas to an officer commanding the volunteers, urging him and his men to attend particularly to the Elections, and to suspect and distrust all who were in any wise opposed to the voting and an immediate declaration of Independence. All such were denounced in the bitterest terms as traitors to the Country and four above Hamilton Cody were declared a corrupt unprincipled set of men, who had sold themselves to the opposition or anti administration men. The following is nearly if not the precise Language used. "There is a deep laid plan to confuse me and my Government but I am aware of all their movements and have anticipated them and will counteract them. The opposition are strong and have many & means and Big Guns & are ready & Corrupt. They are Engaged in it, in speaking of the Labours he has to encounter and difficulties he bravely has to undergo, he very patriotically alludes to the late volunteers army of Texas. Composed mostly of the fine citizens of Texas and as far as I am informed and believe of as good if not of the best men in the State in the following Strain "A mob nick-named an army has just been disbanded amongst us, and I am threatened with assassination by an internal Enemy at home, (the late volunteer army) and an External Enemy from abroad,

How the External Enemy is, one cant tell to conjecture only Probably Santa Anna himself may be in disguise and flanging the in co. to accomplish the downfall of the Govt. which certainly would be finished if "His Excellency" should go by the board, He is the Govt. and no better Sacrifice can be offered at the Shrine of Centralism, than his blood, and the illustrious hero of Jenin will most magnistimably make all reasonable efforts to perform the murderous feat, and thereby enthrone himself steadfastly in the hearts and affections and sons of admiring Countrymen

But he continues "I am fully apprised of this designs and will entangle them in their own wiles and wilang them over them a fall which will break their own, damned neck and they shall melt in their own blood"

This Language is used in reference to the free citizen Volunteers of Texas, who turned out without orders or organization to meet and repel an invading Enemy, and sustain

Honor and fame of the American character and have driven from our borders, four times their numbers of Regulars and Militia armed and equipped with artillery, Cavalry &c and with loss of only 5 men killed—

This is the worst, murderest act of all" and I am forced to say has been the sole cause of my not seeing the communication at present, this the base slander against the Representatives of these very volunteers, is as uncalled for; as it is false and unjust not to say undignified—

The letter is addressed to Maj. William Ward of the Gen. Battalion who is at present reluctant to give a copy or I should forward it to you for use—

It will be remembered that he is a Stranger to Gen. Smith having just arrived in the Country—

Certificates of Citizenship were forwarded with all the necessary instructions with regard to voting for members in the approaching election for delegates to the Convention, It is unnecessary for me to detail further circumstances— the leading facts are presented to you, and I think call for your attention The people of Texas should be fully apprized of the acts & doings of their Public agents.

I shall procure the letter and copy but if he erases any the letter, the language, any the words or sentences, let him erase it and double falsehood and perjury will be added to the Catalogue of his offences and Misdemeanors,

I am truly as ever,

With Sentiments of high consideration

Your obt. Servt.

W. H. Jack Jr.

Capt Provl. Govt.

Executive Dept.
Texas 26 1836

To the President and members of the
General Convention of Texas.

Gentlemen

The foregoing letter from Capt W. H. Jack Jr. speaks for itself and in my opinion ought to be published to the world and thereby give to the knowledge of Texas and the World, full and impartial information of the state of public affairs which is submitted to your most deliberate consideration & attention

James W. Robinson
act Governor

To Gov. Smith

With regard to the organization of the Federal Army of Texas, I am clearly and decidedly of opinion that at least double that number now contemplated say 1120 rank & file, should be raised of the promised aid from Santa Anna, to his last Cos of J W Fannin Jr to Gov Smith Texas & to 10 000 men. If his cause succeeds no doubt but he can raise the largest army ever mustered into the service and in the shortest time, to command this army he must and will send forward his ablest Gens. and make all other necessary preparations, an Experienced and successful chief can be tempted to desire, or the occasion requires. To meet and overwhelm this powerful and increasing force you can authorize the raising only one Brigade, as a regular army, and have already commissioned most of the officers to assume the command; as brave men I readily grant as I ever hope to see, but themselves entirely unacquainted

My Experience has convinced me that not less than six months of the strictest Discipline will make a reasonably fair Soldier much less an efficient officer, I do not hope nor is it all necessary that Either the officers or men be able to perform to a fraction, all the evolutions of their respective stations but a reasonable portion should be required when acknowledged to be essential and can be procured— If an army there be at all requisite, it should be large enough to answer the End of its creation— Then to make it answer the purposes designed, give it all the vigor you can impart, and leave the balance to the God of Battles and justice of your cause & the result will prove most Glorious, Economy is a most precious gem and I hope to see ingrafted in our work a practical System of Political Economy often Spoken of, but too seldom acted upon, I would most respectfully ask of you if it would not be far preferable to end the war in a well timed and vigorous Campaign at an Expence of $100,000 than to protract it with all its horrors and uncertainties, three years with only the cost of $300 000, no man of Sense and reflection can hesitate which of the two to choose May I urge strongly indulged to believe that it would be preferable to pay $ 300,000 and thus end the war in one year rather than be engaged in war and strife at home, without the cost of one cent the term of three years, the case, I trust to me I do very plain that I cannot doubt that you will see it in the same light. With this Connection I will proceed to the main object—

By virtue of your delegated Powers and Efficacy of the act increase the regular army to another Brigade of like numbers with the one already ordered— as a matter of course, one Brig. Genl. must be appointed to each Brigade,

Give to one of those officers or suitable agent the authority to nominate to the appointing authorities most of said of the officers say at least Captains and field officers.

The reasons why I make this suggestion is that I have

had learned to esteem the services of Regular Generals of the highest capacity intelligence and most distinguished gallantry officers now in the United States Army: all of whom day and night in peace & war receive a Government with a reasonable proportion of reward, for the noble training and necessary sacrifices of a soldiers life they resigned quit the land of their birth and for ever with entire into the ranks of their adoption in 1798.

Could patriots of these young men to assign the highest prospect before them in a land of law, liberty and the duties of loyalty, ever cheer to a selfish heart? and much further without the slightest perspective encouragement of any other acknowledgement of their merit?

Remember these Educations under that to serve from they owned first to give their commissions in the United States Army. The great Army disqualifies at least for same time for every other service, and separates all ranks in our Government, including Soldiers, they serve even the interior rule another alternative remains in the Militia and Navy and Marine Corps the respect of first.

Let me call to your remembrance that of the great number of Educated men, they can all until retained in the Army, we even open mind them to enjoy your private retirement the comfort and pleasures and to avoid your delightful, & Educated Officers Regular Army Soldiers and Sailors, in short you need them every hour in peace & war some other your Country in such attitude that at once to engage their services

the Agent Elected by you will become [illegible] the recruited Militia commissions and other instructions from as a Corps with their proper Officers, at least from the Roll of Exception & List of Corps recruited as Corps of in the United States by the General officers Gentlemen and ready to take the field whenever the Army requires their services,

Enlisted Men not to serve as Militia and Each one Corps that a proper Commander be made by this Society by officers operations and State Militia the Corps by Corps the Corps into Regiments, and Militia for the Coast into Corps with Officers of the Corps. & the rest Regiments of the Line of Corps but little doubt the fulfilment of [illegible] Corps of Militia Regiments [illegible] the Corps to [illegible]

Each Corps recruited & Officers and to General Corps [illegible] Commissioned Gentlemen not to serve as Corps Corps of Militia Corps to the United States for your special notice that Militia Officers & Officers Officers Officers of Corps.

Each Corps Officers & Corps to Militia Corps of Militia Corps Corps Militia Corps Militia Corps Militia

Gentlemen Your favor of the 2nd inst. enclosing an extract from, Last to hand & attended to.

San Felipe 31st Oct. 1835

J. W. Fannin Jr.

Head Quarters Com. Felipe de Austin, Nov. 1st

To his Ex Henry Smith
Governor of Texas

Sir

Sam Houston

On Yesterday I had the to Honor to receive your order directing the establishment of head quarters Com Mitte of the army at Washington & will give due pleasure to obey the order at the Earliest moment possible in the mean time I do most Earnestly solicit the attention of your Excellency to the subject of an appropriation to cover the Recruiting Contingencies of the army also I would beg leave to suggest the necessity of establishing a System of accountability in all the disbursing departments by requiring simple security of all the Officers who may be entrusted with funds, agreeably to the System established in the United States. If the present law on the subject is not sufficient for the security of the Public funds:

More than a month has now elapsed since the adjournment of the Convention and the army is not yet organized and tho' I have ordered some officers on the recruiting service it has been upon my own responsibility, It is Extremely painful to me to find what I have been compelled to Experience and labour to Exist I have never failed to render any information when called on by the Chairman of the Military Committee and to furnish such Books as he wished for his instruction Yet I am constrained to believe that he has interposed every possible obstacle to the organization of the army, and so far as I can Ascertain with it to retard the Blessings of Peace in a proper State of defence —

In arriving at this Conclusion it is only necessary to read the report which he made on the subject of the speedy organization of the Militia in the report (tho' entirely unnecessary) he took the liberty of using remarks of a personal character towards myself, which the Genl. Council deemed them so indecorous that the mere Structure of the Report to account for this Course on the part of the Chairman is most necessary.

Relations Individual feelings may be entertained towards me I am conscious of, but as a functionary of the government placed in the responsible situation and so necessary to the Salvation of the Country I am Entitled to rise and to hope for the necessary cooperation in discharge of the duties which I owe to the Country and its Cause, I am ready to make any and Every Sacrafice which any relations of the

mean regions of mud. This Communication is indeed
to me a most private feeling, but as duty requires me to perform all the
difficulties which are thrown in the way of all my Exertions to
promote the cause of my Country and put the Sword into me to medi-
cate myself against the charge of neglect of duty or any want
of the most devoted zeal in behalf of Texas—

I have the honor to be
with great consideration
Your obt Servt
Wm Scott Anderson
Commander in Chief
of the Army—

Head Quarters Army of Texas—

Copy

I have the satisfaction to inform you that
some important advantages have been gained over the Enemy
Captain Grabs has taken Prisoners the Adjutant and Major that
same Detachment of Boxes to Revalde, the same are now encamped
about forty miles from here, the Colonel is Colonel Seguin with
more and more discouraged every day all are united in Encouraging
Reinforcements to Rush unto the Army, I intend the Commander to hurry
on Reinforcements with all possible dispatch and the Campaign will
Crown Gods then is very little prospect that the Enemy will get away and from
the Nation.

Respectfully Your Fellow Servant
& Citizen
Wm Scott Anderson
Commander in Chief
of the Army of
Texas—

That an immediate organization of the Army should take place, Some time Since and the Honor of addressing the Governor of Texas on the Subject of a Proclamation which may be of importance to our internal as well as External relations,

So Soon as the Army is organized by the Commander Should delay no time in forming an Army so as to meet the Enemy on the earliest day possible, the Munitions of War with, Provisions and Supplies for the Army to be organized are not yet contracted for: these are subjects to which I must respectfully and earnestly solicit the most early attention of the General Council—

I would further beg leave to suggest that if required to discharge the duty I will forthwith proceed to Texas and as Special agent with Contracts references to Citizens in the U. States in his behalf in procuring the outfits of an Army—

With great Respect
I have the Honor to be
Your Most obt Servt
Sam Houston
Comd in Chief of the forces
of Texas—

To the Inhabitants of Texas East of the Guadalupe
And to the Committee of Safety &c. of the Town of Gonzales, Comanche
Brazoria Velasco & Quintana

Fellow Citizens

Upon an agonizing contest
Upon by the return and reinforcement of the Enemy on your frontier
to rally, Embodie and Station them Express first arrived at
this post, and direct from San Patricio announced a return of the
Enemy in Considerable number to the Garrison of La Bahia
This movement Leaves the friendly and well disposed portion of the
Population of that Town in momentary fear of life and liberty
The part they acted during the Revolution among them of the Tories
=ies who Commenced the late Insurrection to that Garrison will
be made the Pretext for seizing them, and inflicting penalties the
most rigorous, Suffering the most intense to meet it appears
Succour for assistance and unprovided with the means of going
to her Exposed Settlements they may at this moment be flying a
the Woods for an Asylum or writhing in the agony of mid disconsolate
Massacre, It is our duty to protect these people, the Security and
the Preservation of the Eastern Settlements from the alarm and
danger attending the presence of an infuriate Enemy animated it—
the Complete and Speedy success of the Cause in which we have
Embarked and which all have Espoused demands it, and
a victorious termination of the present Campaign opened for the

Expulsion of the Mexican soldiery of a Tyrant, and Traitor to his Country, imperatively called and cried for the instant protection of this unprotected portion of our frontier.

With a competent force, a few days more will serve to close and crush gloriously close the present campaign All our thoughts are now confidentially addressed to in the name of this Country to fly to its frontier and drive forever from its border, a cruel, barbarous, and Sanguinary foe.

All volunteers attached to this Command and now absent on furlough, or leave, are ordered to return immediately to this station, when this time expired Those who Expired or cost, in no case of absence can be suffered the Commissary is hereby required this present in the field -

Major Cottlesworth is instructed for light or information of this Circular to furnish and forward as soon as possible to this Fortress fifty Barrells of flour and to Gather in every means at his Command the amount of the Clothing and Ammunition ordered this Army he will forward same in addition to the former order now had

I am respectfully
Your Obt Servt
J. Bowie
Lt Col

Head Quarters Alamo 24 Dec. 1835

To His Excellency
Henry Smith
Governor of Texas
Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of 16th instant addressed to my predecessor Col Travis and it affords me the highest pleasure to observe that the conduct of the brave men under my Command has merited your approbation,

The inactivity which General Houston in favor has evinced to the volunteer army, to which your attitude has been due for a length of time and nothing short of the absolute ruin & disgrace it must have been the consequence of the dissolution of that body could have kept the Army from breaking off Palmito together in mass, & leaving Texas without the Troops and Ammunition & Provisions, the pressing Emergencies of which demand a determined & vigorous opposition against a numerous & well disciplined army & nothing but a few recruits in Matamoras of our Land Citizens marching under the Lone Star of Texas, to the rescue of our Country

highly titled attain its real merits; and out of disorder brought about regularity and a system of discipline which at this moment does high honor to the discernment of those who have submitted unwillingly to what our present position so imperiously demanded,

The friendly intentions of the Council towards the volunteer army in framing the ordinance of which you enclose a copy, meets our gratitude, But as you will see by the enclosed document presented to me by the Captains of the Companys who volunteered to stay for a year under the principle of being commanded by the officers of their own Elections subject only to the former Council. in accordance with the decree of the General Council for the formation of the regular army, in which it is specifically stated that they are to be subject to their own commander in chief unless they should unite the Commander in Chief of the Regular Army to take the command, It is utterly impossible to induce the army now here to the same unwilling to the regular army, or to subject them to the Commander in Chief.

At the same time they have willingly submitted to a system of due subordination and discipline as citizen Soldiers, and they are ready and anxious to enter the field against the common Enemy of our liberties, to sustain the principles of the declaration of the people of Texas and authorized to submit themselves in every respect to the disposition of the Provisional Governor of same with the assurance of the major granted to them by the General Council as above alluded to.

Their conduct hitherto in the field is but a slight specimen of what you may expect from them if the principles under which they are organized are respected, with Zeal, economy that they will give every day of their service as soon as an opportunity is offered them, of meeting the Enemy.

I will make immediate arrangements for an Expedition against Matamoras as means fortunate enough to receive your recommendations to take such a step it will however be necessary to wait the arrival of reinforcements on the road to Enable me to leave a sufficient Garrison at this important point, the difficulty which presents itself does not consist in a lack of volunteers for such an Expedition, but in the existing in sufficiency to maintain the order which they wish to achieve new victories and to raise the glory of the army of Texas, as well as to assist the friends of liberty in the interior in throwing off the yoke of tyranny—

To those worthy members of the Council & Government who have befriended the only legitimate form of representation, I tender my best thanks, and the volunteer army at Lugo will ever cherish their merits and be grateful for their support

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen

Respectfully Yr. most obt. Servt.

F. W. Johnson. Commdr in Chf

San Antonio de Bexar 25th dec 1835

To Genl F. W. Johnson Commander
in Chief of the Federal Volunteer Army
of Texas &c

Sir

Capt Llewellyn et al
to
Genl Johnson

We the undersigned Captains of Companies forming the body of forces who have the honor to serve under your Command having seen a decree of this General circumstances by which the volunteer army is required under the denomination of Auxiliaries to subject themselves to the organic laws, and Com'd in Chief of the Regular army beg respectfully to represent in our own and in our Companions Sentiments, that this is in direct opposition to the tenor of a decree of the General convention, by which the Regular army was ordered to be organized, That decree expressly allows the Individuals of the volunteer army the privilege of electing their own officers and not to be subject to the Commander in Chief of the regular army unless he be elected by themselves to their Command, Under these Stipulations, we all volunteers are Sincere and are firm resolved to Comply with, to the utmost of our ability, the Spirit of our Compact founded on the decree above alluded to, but in no case do we consider ourselves subject to or any infringement of our privileges during the term of our Services, nor would Genl be induced our men under any circumstances to subject themselves to the organic laws of the regular army other than those under which they have at present volunteered,

All this we request you to make known to the Genl Council from whom we hope protection and not a curtailment of Offenders privileges granted to us by the General Convention,

Have most Respectfully,

F. W. Trull
1st Colt Artillery

Thos Llewellyn
B L Cameron
Thos R Pearson
John J. Bonner
Wm J. Barnett
Wm Carter

Head Quarters San Antonio de Bejar Dec 18 1835

To His Ex. the Provisional Governor of Texas

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint you that I have received advices this day from the intention of the arrival of Genl. Ramires Sesma at Laredo with 600 cavalry and 1000 Infantry for the purpose of reinforcing General Cos, to whom he has written recommending a vigorous defence until his arrival which he asserts will be in a few days. How far the calculation may affect his movements it is impossible to say, but from further notices of the formation of an army at S. Louis Potosi to be placed under the Command of President Santa Anna It is to be feared that they have immediate intentions of prosecuting offensive measures, and every preparation should be made on our part without delay, as I have too much reason to believe that the information received is as nearly as possible correct from the false representations of the Centralists that we are fighting for independence instead of liberty & the Constitution of 1824 we may dread the Junction of both the great Political Parties against us unless Prompt steps are taken to medicine the Nation Generally.

On the 16th instant addressed your Ex. by Col Bowie relative to the arbitrary Conduct of Captain Merritt and I now beg again to draw your attention to the importance of placing a man of prudence in Command of Goliad Captain Collinsworth who Commanded at the taking of the place was removed by Genls Austin & Burleson to this Charge, and I have no hesitation in recommending the propriety of his appointment the threatened invasion renders it vitally important to place your frontier positions in a State of the best possible defence and this can only be done by having men of prudence and Energy Put in Charge so soon as I am advised that the Command of Goliad is in such hands I will offer an officer of some Experience in fortification to visit the Junction and give his advice as to the works required for immediate defence,

It is of importance that some funds be remitted immediately for the purchase of Corn and cattle and for unavoidable Current Expences Especially as I am now obliged to keep a party in advance near on the Nueces to watch the movements of the Enemy and to act as scouts in case of necessity It will also be necessary to forward to this place all the Common Balls and Powder which can be procured near in the Country

I have the honor to be
Sir, your Ex's most obt Servt,
F. W. Johnson
Comd in Chief
Fed. Vol. Army of Texas

Letters to Governor Smith from various persons on Government affairs

Sam Houston to Gov. Smith

Head Quarters, Washington 26 Dec 1835

Dear Sir, I have the Honor of reporting my arrival for Service here yesterday, and my finding Captain Wyatt with a company or detachment consisting of less than 50 men, from Huntsville Alabama (U.S.) also Captain King with about Eighteen men from Pascagoula Ky. with rifles Capt Wyatt having fifty Guns route U.S. muskets under the instructions of the law, I feel my self under the most painful difficulties in accepting the Services of these volunteers, I will do the best in my power for the country while I under justice to them, I found in the ranks great discontent and a disposition to abandon our cause, to day I have spent much time in Explaining to them all matters, & hope they are satisfied, On Yesterday before I wrote Genl General had directed me, or like "Independent volunteers" have shewn and insubordinate or "Mutinous" disposition, if any such should present themselves to your Excellency for admission, I pray that they may be disappointed until they return to Captain Wyatt for duty whom I shall order to Refugio Mission so as to cover the Coast of Copano It is necessary for me to order that a Band and waggon accompany the Troops to that Station and I have been compelled to appoint a Quartermaster and Commissary this Country to conduct them by the best route and procure the necessary subsistence for the Command, I will suggest to your Excellency the propriety of my sending such intimation to the U.S. as will induce troops to Enlist such Saints and ourlaws as will Ensure them Cattle Subsistence with the Expense to the Country thrown to pursue a march by Land,

To day there has been an arrival from San Antonio in 5 days and reports all quiet, but no Dispatches, For this I keep my order have reached there and will have a favorable effect with the Command, It is said that Bowie and his Men on Thursday should he come to San Filipe I keep from Ex, will be so kind as to order him to this point, as I am furnish him with a copy of the order which I forwarded to him by Gen Executive Order,

I have the Honor to be
Gen Excellencies most obt.
Lieut.
Sam Houston
Comd in Chief of the Army

Head Quarters Texas 30 Dec. 1835

To His Ex Henry Smith, Governor

Sir

I have the honor to enclose to you a muster roll of Captain P.S. Wyatt with one also from Captain King Eath Company and detachment are mustered into the Command and subject to the orders of Capt. Wyatt, I have had much difficulty in getting them to volunteer for any definite Period, But as the ordinance left a discretion with me to accept there Services for such time as I might think the good of the Service required" I did think it necessary to specify some certain time and that time I did not conceive ought to be less than three months, if so it would be burdensome to the country without any corresponding benefit, I think they will all re-volunteer for among the wise Eventually, They are all on this ground to Copano where I design they shall be stationed until further order. To day I sent dispatches to Velasco and Matagorda with orders to Lieut Eaton to act as Asst. Qr. Master and Lieut to furnish supplies to all troops landing on the Gulf, to proceed to Copano, I have herewith inclosed to your Excellency a copy of the order, having sent a special order to Lieut Eaton, of Prior date,

I beg leave to remark that by the time I can hold an Indian Treaty and arrange matters for safety in the rear of the Army and return to this point by Matagorda I shall have now unfortunate duties devolved upon him that those which would have been confided to an aid de Camp to the Maj Genl, while the Genl and Governor would be responsible to the country giving and for every failure or delinquency which might occur to the detriment of the army and the defence of the country,

I have the Honor to be
Your obedient Servant,
Sam Houston
Commander in Chief &c

Nacogdoches January 8th 1835

A Sirvey to Jovernor

To his Ex. the Governor

Sir the letter I wrote you Expressing Judge Rueg's declaration to me on the subject of giving to Judge Forbes the documents and Public Papers belonging to his office was handed to Rueg's and after he read its contents asked him if it was right, his answer was yes.

But in violation to every promise and declaration he made, he has retained the papers until the 1st of January, at which time he admitted the oath of office as Judge to pursue Orders, a mexican, and delivered all the papers over to him, setting at defiance the Convention of all Texas and their acts, & and the proceedings I am satisfied that it is necessary to have a good officer here, with a sufficient number of men to Enforce the acts of the Convention and prevent the arrest of Calamities

The alcalde has issued titles to more land within the three last weeks than Ever were issued by all the alcaldes of this place before. Let us wait patiently to say what acts they bear

You can more easily conceive the feelings of the pioneers to the acts of the convention & good order than I can Express them.

A dinner is to be given to the Governor in this place tomorrow, after which you may Expect a letter from me by the first opportunity

With Esteem Respectfully Your obt. Servt.

Arthur D'Evrieu

Commandancy of Bexar
Feb 16 1835

M B Irvin to Governor.

To His Excellency Henry Smith

Sir — Enclosed I send you the Report of the Engineer of this Post Mr Green B Jameson together with a plan or demonstration of the Alamo & its present State of defence I hope they will meet your approbation as Mr G has shown himself industrious and attentive in his department and seems willing to do Every thing in his power to Serve the State.

I have nothing of interest to communicate that has transpired since my last. I must however

again remind your Excellency that this Point is the Key of Texas and should not be neglected by the Government men money and Provisions are needed with them this part can and shall be maintained and Texas (that is) the Colonies will be saved from the fatal effects of an Invasion

Respectfully &c
Wm Barrett Travis

Brazoria Feb. 4th 1835

To His Excellency Governor Smith.

Dr Sir

W. Richardson to Gov Smith

I wrote to Genl. Houston a few days ago apprising him of my resignation of the appointment of Inspector General of the Army of Texas and left that letter may not come to hand for some time and also to communicate it to the head of the Civil department I have thought it Expedient to apprise you of the fact My ill health has rendered me utterly incompetent to discharge the arduous and highly responsible duties connected with that office and I therefore resign

Yours Respectfully
W. Richardson

Columbia 15th December 1835

Your Excellency

Mejia to Govr.

The day before yesterday I have dispatched from this place the american Company Commanded by Captain Alexander to the Camp before Bejar and Yesterday the balance of my forces left here with direction to the Aspar by way of Velasco to take with them the convoy arms and munitions of war which I have there and to convey them to the Camp I also leave here to day for Guntard to arrange Matters there and to proceed in person if it should be necessary, of which I will advise E.E. in due time

I am E.E. most obt. Servt.
Jose Antonio Mejia

E. Pierce
to
Gov Smith

Egypt 25 December 1835

Dear Sir

I take this method of communicating to you some of my views on Public affairs, over People met in a very disorganized manner, and rather, for chance succeeded in taking San Antonio, and I think it was unwise to say it is time for Texas to be done until disorganized insubordinate, undisciplined armies as that appears to have been. It would appear necessary to organize a sufficient number of troops to Garrison and Fortify the Past a San Antonio and to push forward supplies for their support. The Contractors Department I fear is very deficient, ample supplies for the support of the army should be laid in, in good time and forward to the proper places, and securely deposited to be in readiness for a stirring Campaign; as we may expect a Storm, prior the Enemy at each time.

I deem it necessary for Texas to be ready to meet an army of the Enemy Eight or ten Thousand Strong in one month. Our army should be well organized and disciplined, to do which they should all be in the field by the middle of march for it will require at least two months for men to be sufficiently trained to insure success

Subordination is also very necessary and cannot be dispensed in a regular army, which also requires a length of time to get it into men-

Suffer me Sir to close by saying my earnest desire is that every department may Exert itself to have every thing in readiness at any time and at all times to insure the Country the greatest success

Respectfully Yours
Ed Pierce

Bexar Feb 13 1836

To His Ex. Gov Smith

W.B. Travis
to
Gov Smith

Dear Sir

I wrote you an official letter last night as Commandant of this Post in the absence of Col Neill, and of you had taken the trouble to answer my letter from Burnhams I should not now have been under the necessity of troubling you. My situation is truly awkward and delicate, Col. Neill left me in the Command, but wishing to give satisfaction to the volunteers have and not wishing to assume any Command over them I issued an order for the Election of an officer to command

from with the exception of one Company of Volunteers that had previously Engaged to serve under me, Some were Elected by two Precell Companies, and since his Election he has been roaring almost all the time, has assumed all Command and is proceeding in a most disorderly manner, interfering with Private property, releasing Prisoners sentenced by Court martial and by the Civil Court and turning every thing topside turvy, if I did not fulfill my Duties and Out of my County Commissioned, I would leave here instantly for some other point with the troops under my immediate Command, but I am unwilling to be responsible for the disasterous consequences of any measure, I hope you will immediately order some regular troops to this place as it is more important to occupy this Post than Immagined when I last saw you It is the Key of Texas from the interior, without a footing here, the Enemy can do nothing against us in the Colonies now that our Coast is guarded by armed vessels I do not solicit the Command of this Post but as Col. Neill has applied to the Commander in Chief to be relieved and is anxious for me to take the Command, I will do it if it be your order for a time until an artillery officer can be sent here, The citizens have Every confidence in me, do they can communicate with me, and they have shown Every disposition to aid me with all they have, we must have more men— Can you Send us some? C. in C. D. your letter to the troops & made a Speech and they received it with acclamation Our Spies have just returned from Rio Grande, the Enemy is two 1000 strong and is making every preparation to invade us, by the 15 of March or 1st of April Texas will be invaded, and Every preparation should be made to receive them, Dr Smith will Call on you & give you all the news, Do Neil & Mr. Collins the bearer of this,

In Conclusion allow me to say, that you will give me definite orders immediately

Yours &c.
W. Barret Travis

P.S. This is a private letter addressed to Gibbs for your self only Read Secretly

W. Travis

Commandancy of Bexar
February 12th 1836

To His Excellency H Smith
Governor of Texas

W.B. Travis to Gov. Smith

Sir Sum have no doubt already received information by Express from La Bahia that tremendous Preparations are making on the Rio-Grande and Elsewhere in the interior for the invasion of Texas, Sant Anna by the last accounts was at Saltillo with a force of 2500 men and Gaul Sesma was at the Rio Grande with about 2000,

He has issued his proclamation denouncing vengance against the people of Texas, and declares to Exterminate Every white man within its limits, This being the Frontier Post nearest the Rio Grande will be the first to be attacked, We are illy prepared for the reception as we have not more than 150 men here and they in a very disorganized State, yet we are determined to sustain it as long as there is a man left because we consider death preferable to disgrace which would be the result of giving up a post which has been so dearly won, and thus opening the door for the invaders to Enter the Sacred Territory of the Colonies, We hope our countrymen will open their Eyes to the present danger and wake from their false Security, I hope that all party dissentions will subside: that our fellow Citizens will unite in the common Cause and fly to the defence of the fortress,

I fear that it useless to waste arguments upon them The thunder of the enemies Cannon and the Lamentations of their wives and daughters, The cries of their friends and famished Children, and the smoke of their burning dwellings will only arouse them,

I regret that the Government has so long neglected a draft of the Militia which is the only measure that will ever again bring the Citizens of Texas to the Frontiers.

Many clothing and provisions are greatly needed at this Post at the use of the Soldiers, I hope your Excellency will send us a portion of the money which has been received from the U.S. as it cannot be here applied indeed, we cannot get along any longer without money and with it we can do any thing,

For Gods Sake and the Sake of our Country send us reinforcements, I hope you will send to this Post at least two Companies of Regular Troops,

Captain Allen Company under Lt. Johnson now at Goliad and the Company of Ugulans or Cupano. under

command of Lt Turner might well be ordered to this pass. as they could reach here in 4 days on foot. In consequence of the sickness of the family Lt Col. Neill has left this Post to visit home for a short time, and has requested me to take the command of the Post. In consequence of which I feel myself delicately and awkwardly situated I therefore hope that your Excellency will give me some definite orders and that immediately.

The Troops here to a man recognize you as their legitimate Governor and they expect your fatherly care and protection.

In conclusion let me assure your Excellency that with 200 more men I believe this place can be maintained, & I hope they will be sent as soon as possible Get should me receive no reinforcements I am determined to defend it to the last and should Bexar fall your friend will be buried beneath its ruins.

I have the honor to be
Your very humble Servt.
W. Barrett Travis

Port Bexar Jany. 18 1836

Minute
to
Mr Smith

To His Excellency Henry Smith
Governor of Texas.

Sir I have the honor to inform your Excellency that our Cavallado was seized yesterday by the order of Col Grant who had arrived a few days before from Bexar in Volunteers who were the first to relieve the town, who had taken this Post and maintained it and who even on the eve of being relieved from garrison duty and by this act left without the means of transportation to their homes

A part of the troops stationed at this post giving undoubted in their present position determined that we should fall back on the Guadeloupe. This reasonable dread was cast for their persons lest their property not erected by their Enemies lest their allies; the Cavalry just been taken & the Troops have decided that they will defend this Post at all hazards until they shall receive further orders from Head Quarters.

I have the honor to be with
the highest respect
Your mo. obt Servt.
J. L. Connelle
Secretary

Bejar Feby 15 1836

To His Excellency H Smith
Governor of Texas
Sir

W B Travis to Gov Smith

I take pleasure in introducing to your acquaintance & friendly notice my friend and fellow countryman Erastus Smith who has proven himself to be the bravest of the Brave in the cause of Texas in time of need Texas ought to befriend and protect him and his helpless family & I will give you the news relative to every thing here and upon him you may rely.

Your friend
W B Travis

Head Quarters
Bexar Jany 17. 1836

To His Excellency
Henry Smith

Sam Houston to Gov Smith

I have the honor to enclose for your information a communication from Lt. Col. J.C. Neill under date of the 14th instant, Col Bowie will leave here in a few hours for Refugio with a detachment of from 30 to 50 men, Captain Patons Company it is believed are now there, I have ordered the fortifications in the Town of Bejar to be demolished and if you should think well of it, I will remove all the cannon and other munitions of war to Goliad and Copano, blow up the Alamo and abandon the place, as it will be impossible to keep up the Station with volunteers, the Bearer that I send be authorized the latter it will be for the county, in an hour I will be on Rio Grande the line of march for Refugio Brigade with about 200 Efficient men, where I will await news from your Excellency believing that the army should not advance with a small force upon Matamoras with a hope or belief that the Mexicans will cooperate with us, I have no confidence in them and the inactive at Tampico should teach us a lesson to be noted in our future operations, I have learned that Col. Fannin is encamped on the Aranes with 130 men but accounts vary as to the actual number, they are to co-operate in the contemplated Campaign I am told

I will leave Captain Ward this Post in command until I can return him with 30 regulars now at Refugio, I pray that your Excellency will cause all the regulars now enlisted to be immediately formed into Companies & marched on to head Quarters, It will be impossible to keep up a Garrison with the volunteers, Do forward the regulars Capt.

I Omit had been relieved and Sent him on his way home today Captain Patten will return to the Lavaca County and bring on a Company so Soon as possible, I have sent to Captain Comit to raise one hundred more men and march to Bejar forthwith if it should be invested, and if not to repair to Head Quarters with his Company, Captain Pattison will likewise I intended myself have marched to Bejar with a force but the Matamoras rogue is so sickly that of the difficulties which I have Encountered, Pattison has told you of the men who make trouble, Better Recruits never more in want the government and all of the officers have been misrepresented to the army I pray you to send me Copies of Austins letters or rather Extracts

If the Consul is in Session I do wish they would say Some thing about the Conspiracy,

Please send August Expresses and advise me of your pleasure,

I have the honor to be with great resp and Esteem Your Obedient Servant

Sam Houston

Comd in Chief of the Army

Official,

Commandancy of Bexar
January 1st 1836

Extract. Maj Genl Samuel Houston.
to
S. Houston

Sir

This is the third official, Since my command at this place, and they are all of the Same nature Complaining of Scarcity of provisions men and money, and I think no have plenty ordinance Small arms, Cannon and Musquet Cartridges but no rifle powder.

The men all under my command have been in the field for the last 4 months, they are almost naked, and this day they were to have received pay for the first month of their last enlistment, and almost every one of them Speak of going home, and not less than 20 will leave tomorrow, and I have here only about 80 efficient men under my command, and there are at Lorado now three thousand men under the command of Genl Fanning and two other Gen's and as it appears by a letter received here last night two thousand of them are destined for this place, and 3,000 for Matamoras we are in a hostile defenceless Situation, and have not been able to get from the citizens here, Since Colonel Grant & Johnson left to Send out a patrole as I by company, Capt. Salvador Flores a Mexican has volunteered to go with two others as Spies all the

to Enable to learn the Situation of the Enemy or exact Force nor the proper Means what to use here the recommended Exercise Situation of the Enemy

If Case they a good Intrenchment that may as great Nos posses the Villages of this Coun the Great Guns attack, they have no occasion here, but those Troops and Cavalliance, Horse, Foot to Cut their Grass Straw & Beans, for the necessary Subsistance of the Enemy but will not be distressed without Some necessary to Keep this to the Indefatigable Expences which we must Incur.

There must be the Commissary of Prisoners Provisions, Two Pieces of Artillery and Several Waggons in return these Loads of Stores as per Contract with the owners of Cattle as per

Who are to be employed in Escorts &c, as many to be Nessesary by the Enemy, but if Some such Disposition as Camp as Town, and then must Consider if there Strength Should Oblige to Detach for Escorts &c to Convoys of the Villages in Order to Secure Provisions for Subsistance that you cannot be in Great Danger Cut off Small Parties must Disperse Foot Guard Horse and Dragoons to Secure Provisions &c for the Army Commissary Provisions Waggons &c Artillery, the Waggons Provisions &c if Escorts must not be Detached Cut & Scoff'ed off, Some Time or other the Army into Confusion Several Times, and the Enemy Knowledge of the Nessesary Disposition, Then we not Secure Convoys to Obtain the Several Orders of any Commanding in Chief in a Unfortunate Circumstance, Good Intention with Great Success

Col Elliot
F.C. Faiet
Lt Col Wandy

Journal of Occurrences No. 36

Journal of Occurrences of Lt. Smith
while on
the Expedition to Bathurst

Sunday 29th Nov. Light airs and fine weather with a strong current setting to the Southward. Employed all hands getting the Boats ready for proceeding up the River. Mr. Cox and Mr. Evans with their Parties left the Camp at Daylight and proceeded up the River. Mr. Cox's Party consisted of 12 Men and Mr. Evans's of 10 Men. Mr. Cox's Party was provided with 3 Days Provisions and Mr. Evans's with 2 Days Provisions

under my command have been sent out to the Rio Frio They returned yesterday without information, and we remain yet in doubt whether they intend an attack on this place, or go to reinforce Matamoras. It does, however seem certain that an attack is shortly to be made on this place and I think, and it is the general opinion that the enemy will come by land. The citizens of Bexar have behaved well, Col. Neill and myself have come to the same resolution, that we will rather die in these ditches, than give it up to the enemy. These citizens deserve our patriotism, and the Public safety demands our lives, rather than to evacuate this post to the enemy, again we call aloud for Relief; the weakness of our post will at any rate bring the enemy on, Some volunteers are Expected, Captain Patton with 5 or 6 men came in. But a large reinforcement with provisions is what needed

I have information just now from a friend in town I believe, that the force at Rio Grande (Presidio) is two thousand complete he state farther that 5000 more are a little back and marching on; perhaps the 2000 will wait for a junction with the 5000. This information is corroborated with all that we have heard The informant says that they intends to make a descent on this place in particular, and there is no doubt of it.

Our force is very small, the returns this day to the Commandant, is only 120 officers and men, It would be a waste of men, to put our brave little band against thousands.

We have no interesting news to communicate, The army have elected 2 Gentlemen to represent them, I trust they will be received.

James Bowie

Mobile 22 February 1835

His Excellency S. Perry Smith
Governor of Texas.

G.A. Allen Jr.

to
Gov Smith

On the memorable day- dear to the hearts of every american who would venerate the memory of the Fathers of his country, I would beg leave to offer the people of Texas, a donation of five thousand Dollars, to aid them in their present struggle for liberty- a struggle to free them from the shackles of usurpation and lawless tyranny.

Your order or that of the proper officer of the Texian Government on McKinney & Williams will be duly honored for that amount.

I refer to many of the early settlers in Austins Colony that in 1828 at the solicitation of Samuel M.

Williams I visited that Colony, I can scarcely Express the delight I experienced in viewing this "garden of America" the most beautiful perhaps in England cultivated at great Expenses, never Excited the pleasurable sensations which pervaded my breast in witnessing natures production, in the Clustered Ravies of Texas Treasures of wealth embodied in her soil, only needing the hand of North American industry to bring them forth, Struck me most forcibly, and as Cotton appears to be the most desirable and profitable product, I endeavored to Stimulate the settlers to a rivalry in good cultivation and preparation of that article by offering premiums for the best crops of Cotton, Procuring the best Cotton gins &c.
Hope the importance of this subject may induce the Government when they shall have been relieved from their threatened oppression to turn their attention to the matter, and by offering their agricultural societies or otherwise, Premiums for the best crops, from the smallest to the largest, And thus Establish the character of Texas Cotton as Preeminent abroad as her soil is superior to her neighbours, for the cultivation of the greatest staple upon Earth.
Wishing the people of Texas entire success in their threatened overthrow by Santa Anna
I am most Respectfully
Sir, Your obt. Servant
Saml. H. Smith Texas.

Madagorda 16. February 1836.

To the President or Executive of Texas.

W. M. Royall to Gov. Smith

I have been used by our Public agents at New orleans as the agent of the government at this place, and as such the Government vessels and Stores have been consigned to me
Mor E Hall, the Purchasing Agent at New Orleans requests information in relation to the benefits offered to Volunteers or Regulars in our service in Land that he may be enabled to inform those who embark in our cause, he has seen the Provision to pay them 640 acres of Land, but is not informed whether they are entitled to the Benefits of the Laws of Colonization on becoming Citizens, He also requests a list of the commissioned officers and Public Agents, and as he has attached in instance enough to the subject to write me several times, I must ask you the favor to forward to him the desired information
If it is the purpose of the Government to Continue to use me as their Agent at this Point it will be necessary to have their order to that effect, and as my advances (Considerable in Cash) has amounted to about $3000, I would like to be informed at what Period I might?

to be repaid by draft on our Agents at some period when I could use in New Orleans to meet my engagements. The Government will recollect that my claims are not of an ordinary character, being a loan exacted for want of funds in our Treasury and could not much longer be useful to the Government unless sustained, as it would necessarily produce a failure of my own engagements abroad. But at the same time wish you to receive assurances of my willingness to render my Govt. any services in my power. Nor shall advised me that he had shipped a Howitzer and Shells for the Brutus, which so seems from some cause was left at the Brazos, of this I suppose her Capt. Hurd will have informed you as he has gone up to Washington I have acted as agent Both at this Port and for that of La Vaca, Your early attention will confer a favor upon Your obedient Servant

R. T. Bryan

Matagorda 18 Feb. 1836

To the Hon. Ten Council

Same

By this conveyance I send You an account current for Freight from New Orleans (for Your information) per Schooner Mrs. Turner Captain Blake by which I received a consignment, the invoice of which I send you together with a copy of letter from Mr Bryan our Agent at Nicholasville and an important Postscript

I have at great cost to Brazoria to forward the Ship and Cargo to Velasco and am officially informed of the movements of Santa Anna, and consequently by sending them so far west there might be some Risque of their falling into the enemies hands, or of damage or total destruction

Of all this Strategic is the hardest that I have to encounter but also our agent Mr Bryan, the Cargo of the Cavalier has been safely stored at Cays Saint on the Vitasa subject to the order of Mr Bryan our Agent or Claim or command also officers of the Navy and Army or Legate Ambassador agent of the Government of Texas and Storage paid by a draft drawn on me or other cargo Received and the articles are according the Bills of the Cost.

The Cargo of the Mrs Turner will however be discharged here except one Cask of the Cavalier (Bryan Goods) which be sent to Matagorda to be taken with the remainder of the Cargo of 20 Tons on board of the William A. Turner the other articles will be ta-

waiting. your orders must sooner called for from the Army
of Jose Storage and a force adequate to Protect them should be
had at Copano and a determination to continue it, I would advise
the forwarding. this Shipment by inland Boat passage to Copano
and all in future shipped from N.O. direct to Copano, If such is
not the determination of I would advise the consignment to
myself subject to the order of my agent left at the pass, who
is the Pilot and the contract can be so made in N.O, that I can order
them to Lavaca or Matagorda from the pass without any additio
al charge, or if circumstances require I can send them to Copano
and further west being advised to do so,

You will please receive assurance of my readiness
to render any Services to the Public which circumstances may
make necessary,

Feby 14 1836

Yesterday a passenger (my neighbour, Shepard) arrived
from Durango having Landed on the Peninsula and came
across in a Boat, and brings Several Letters from the Council
which I forward also Several for me, containing no new infor
=mation except a Statement relative to Santa Anna's Position, which
will be no doubt also in the Letters to your body, and Mr Hall
incloses a list of officers, Civil Naval, Military & Revenue and States
that Santa Annas provision vessels will Sail under a white flag with
a black cross, this will be a good mark for our vessels to be gover
by

P. P. Royall

Velasco March 2d 1836

Sir

W. Fisher to Gov. Smith

The Schooner Sherrandoa entered this Port on the 28
ult and proceeded up the river without reporting. I immediately
procured her entry some of the negroes belonging to Capt. Turner
Company, I overhauled the vessel that night and found that
the negroes had been Landed, they were however found during
the night, and I have given them up to Mr Edwards (the new
on his giving bond with Security to the amount of their value
to be held subject to the decision of the Government. Sterling
Mc Neil Landed a Cargo of negroes (of Leland) on the Coast Pro=
ceeded to Sea to the vessel, but was unsuccessful, This Traffic in
African negroes is increasing daily and as no Law has been enacted
directly from the Convention relative to this matter, I am very
much in need of instruction, The number of negroes Landed from the
Sherrandoah is 171, and I hold her subject to the decision of the
Convention, by laying this before that body You will oblige
Your obt. Sert. W. Fisher Collector.

Head Quarters, Velasco 3 March 36

Gen. Pue
to
H. Smith

Sir

I have been ordered to this point and Galveston for the purpose fortifying them against the enemy, Captain Turners Company of Regular Troops and Captains Roman of volunteers are here, one (Turners) 47 Strong and Romans 25 Strong. I have received letters from the citizens requesting we not to move the troops from here, to leave one company here to defend the place & one Company at Galveston. They have offered to work with hands and axes in the construction of Batteries and mounting the Cannon. Moreover there is a large supply of Arms ammunition and clothing here, which without troops cannot be protected.

Captain Turner got an order to day from one Lorenzo N Robinson Self Styled Commander in chief of the army, to proceed immediately to Bexar. Capt Roman is also ordered, and this place will be left undefended Turners Commission comes from Robinson, & Roman has received none yet.

For Gods sake Sir Consider what will become of the property & lives of the citizens should the Enemy Land here. It is believed on good authority that a Simultaneous attack will be made by sea & Land.

I am the Commanding officer and the Troops shall obey no other order but Yours, I dont Know any other Governor, Send me an Express with orders how to act, discretionary or otherwise

Send me also a commission for volunteer Captain Reid Roman, one of your commissions for —— Lawson, and requisite Commissions for Summers Turner Casey & Millers, the first names can be left blank and I will fill them and Swear the officers.

I will obey your orders if they are to march to the devil, but this thing the other Governor I will not, did you Know the anxiety here, you would dispatch an express forth with.

I am Sir Your friend
& Ob. Servt
Geo W. Poe
A. A. Inspector Gen. Army.

Head Quarters Texas,
San Filipe de Austin 6 Dec. 1835

To His Excellency Henry Smith
Governor of Texas

Sam Houston
to
Gov Smith

Sir

I have the honor respectfully to call your attention to the subject of a speedy organization of the regular army. The organic Law has provided for the immediate raising of such force, and the General Council has said what Corps shall compose the same, It is rumored of me to raise the Regular Army without delay, & for the responsibility of any situation at a time when every effort should be exerted and means used for the accomplishment of an object so necessary to the Defence & happiness

and I apprehend the Salvation of Texas, I must remain under the convict that all essential power is withheld from me to meet the requisitions of the Organic Law.

It is true the Company officers of the Infantry Regiment have been appointed by the Hon. General Council, but the field officers proper to command and superintend the several recruiting Rendezvous have not been appointed: The Regiment of Artillery so necessary for the defence of our sea coast, as well as for field Service, has no basis on which it can be raised; no officers are appointed, and it will be impossible for me ever to enlist the rank & file of the Army until the officers are appointed. An Army never has been raised for Regular Service until the officers have all been appointed. The regiments of the U States army were all completely officered before one man was enlisted in the ranks. It cannot be objected, that merit will be forestalled, by filling the several corps at this time, It must have been contemplated by the framers of the organic Law that the army would be immediately organized out of the Militia then in Texas.

If new terms from any source whatever is kept in suspence, to accomplish the object designed in the formation of a regular Army. Unless the officers are appointed at an early day it will be impossible to have an army at the opening of the Campaign which cannot in any opinion be delayed with safety to the Country longer than the 20 February or the first day of March at furthest. If only a portion of the officers should be appointed, I apprehend the organization of the Army will be incomplete, and the intention of the Law will not be answered, the necessities of the Country seem to require a complete Organization, We must have an army or evade the hope of defending the Country!

Late letters recently intercepted from Genl. Santa Ana, the sanguinaries of the Central Government are calculated to arouse every generous heart in Texas to active and absolute resistance, an army of the enemy amounting to 10,000 men, with Suitable munitions of war, must be met and vanquished or Texas will be overwhelmed for years to come Union and Confidence among ourselves, and a generous support of the Army, will achieve everything that is desireable to Freemen!

Until the full Complement of Officers is appointed of the regular Army it is impossible, that one can be raised, I take Pleasure in assuring Your Excellency that I will at all times hold myself accountable for the means placed at my disposal, designed for the defence of the Country and the Success of our Cause, But it must be obvious to all that in the same ratio in which the necessary and proper means are withheld from me my responsibility must be diminished.

Permit me, I implore you most earnestly to give your attention to the Subjects herein very respectfully Submitted

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully, Your obt Servt.
Sam Houston

[illegible] Feb. [illegible] 1836

[illegible]

[illegible] the Commissioners of the Navy Board & Enclosed and a Return of the Number of Men Employed in the Several Departments of Dockyard Ordnance Victualling & Medical Establishments at Deptford for the Week ending the 6th Instant Distinguishing the Shipwrights Caulkers Labourers & Artificers employed in Building Repairing Fitting & Docking Ships & Vessels in Ordinary & Repair & Building Sheers & Mooring Vessels & Artificers employed in Building Repairing & Fitting Boats & Lighters & Men employed in Sawing Timber & Stuff & Labourers employed in Mould Loft Mast House Boat Building Shed Smithery Mill Dock Basin Wharf Timber Ponds Timber Yard Saw Pits Timber Sheds Store Houses Offices & Workshops & Men employed in Rigging Ships & Vessels in Ordinary & Repair & Labourers employed in Mast House Mast Ponds Mast Yard Mast Sheds Rope House Rope Walks Hemp Stores Tar Stores Oil Stores Paint Stores Canvas Stores Sail Loft Sail Room Anchor Forge Anchor Yard Anchor Shed Boat Shed Boat Yard Boat Store Boat Repository Boat Dock Boat Basin Boat Wharf Boat Ponds Boat Sheds Boat Store Houses Boat Offices & Boat Workshops & Men employed in Victualling Ships & Vessels in Ordinary & Repair & Labourers employed in Victualling Yard Victualling Office Victualling Store Victualling Shed Victualling Wharf Victualling Dock Victualling Basin Victualling Ponds Victualling Sheds Victualling Store Houses Victualling Offices & Victualling Workshops & Men employed in Ordnance Ships & Vessels in Ordinary & Repair & Labourers employed in Ordnance Yard Ordnance Office Ordnance Store Ordnance Shed Ordnance Wharf Ordnance Dock Ordnance Basin Ordnance Ponds Ordnance Sheds Ordnance Store Houses Ordnance Offices & Ordnance Workshops & Men employed in Medical Ships & Vessels in Ordinary & Repair & Labourers employed in Medical Yard Medical Office Medical Store Medical Shed Medical Wharf Medical Dock Medical Basin Medical Ponds Medical Sheds Medical Store Houses Medical Offices & Medical Workshops

[illegible]

The Commissioners drew a split in the Convention, Col Travis as a matter of course would not submit to the Control of Bowie, and he Bowie availing himself of his popularity among the Volunteers, succeeded completely to arrogate to himself the entire Control,

Things rested on in this way yesterday and to day until at length they have become intolerable, Bowie as Commander of the Volunteers, has gone so far as to Stop Waits Cannon with the avowed object of privateering Mexicans into the Country, He has ordered the Prison door to be opened for the release of a Mexican convicted of theft into which he broke by a party of Men, among whom was Col Travis and Col Bowie himself,

He has also ordered and Effected the release of Grimes a private in the regular army, attached to the Legion of Cavalry who had been tried by a Court martial and found guilty of mutiny, and actually liberated him from Irons, with a corporals guard with loaded Muskets,

But the most extraordinary Step of all and that which sets aside all Law, Civil and Military is that which follows:

Headquarters of Texas
Feb. 5. 1836

Officers of Companies are hereby required to release such prisoners as may be under your direction for Crimes or otherwise

Commandant of the Volunteer
forces of Texas,

Under this order the Mexicans were set at liberty, the Soldiers commanded by the Court-martialed and Jaime of whom had been released on the Alamo on the twelfth was not released,

Whilst Travis who had been elected by a large majority to the Judge made the Proclamation of Martial Law, Col Travis Volunteers and demanded his Cloths which were in the Court-house stating that Col Travis had set him at liberty, whereupon the Judge, Legislature ordered him to be committed to prison, which was accordingly done.

At dawn of day I was expected to Bowie, he went in a furious manner and demanded of the Judge a release of the Prisoner, which the Judge refused saying "that he would give up his Office and let the Military appoint a Judge" Bowie immediately went to the Alamo for things & they immediately proceeded in the same manner in a Tumultuous and disorderly manner, Bowie himself and many of his men being drunk, which has been the case ever since he has been in Command,

Col Travis protested against the proceedings, to the Judge and others declaring to good order, and expressed to evade the Steps which must inevitably follow, nor as at

drawn off his troops to the Brazos, where he thinks it may be as useful as in the Colonies, and at any rate saves him self from implication in this disagreeable business.

I have returned to give you a short Statement of proceedings to inform you and those who have not heard the Transactions

Yours &c &c,
S. F. Austin
Agent of the State of Texas,

Burham's Colorado Jany 29 36

To His Excellency, Henry Smith
Governor of the State of Texas.

Sir

This will be handed to you by Captain Jackson, who will explain to you the situation of things here. I have been with the Troops under Captains Forsythe, but shall await your orders at Gonzales or some other Point on the road, I shall however keep the Troops and the Company in motion towards Bexar, so that they may arrive there as soon as possible,

Not having been able to raise 100 volunteers, my answer to your order, and there being so few regular troops together, I must beg that your Excellency will recall the order for me to go on to Bexar, in Command of so few men, I am willing any, sacrifices to go to the defence of Bexar and have done every thing in my power to equip the enlisted men and get them off, But Sir I am unwilling to risk my reputation (which is more dear to a Soldier) by going off into the country with such little means, so few men, and them so badly equipped, in fact there is no necessity for my services to Command these few men The Campaign officers will be amply sufficient, This would at all events be sent to Bexar on the frontier of Texas, they may never go on to San Antonio under command of Capt Forsyth where they can be employed if necessary, and if they are not needed there they may be sent to Goss Patricio, or some other point, I can now Command that name but if defensive measures can be pursued at this Government Council, If the Executive or the Prayer Cent. desire or order it, I will visit the West of San Antonio as any other, for the purpose of Conferring or Communicating with the officers in Command there, or to execute any Commission I may be entrusted with. But I do not feel disposed to go to Command a Corps of men, and without the means of carrying on a Campaign, Therefore I hope Your Excellency will take my situation into consideration

and relieve me from the orders which I have therefore received.
So far as they compel me to command in person the men who
are now on their way to Bexar, I should feel it due to
myself to resign my Commission, I would remark that Col
Bonham is now at present in Superintending the recruiting service.
I have the Honor to be Your Excellency's Most
Obt Servant
Wm Barret Travis
Lt. Col. Comd. of Cavalry.

Head Quarters Camp at Bemans Colorado
Jany 28 1836

Communication
To His Excellency Henry Smith
Governor of Texas
Sir

Same to Same

In obedience to my orders, I have done every thing in my power to get ready to march to the relief of Bexar but owing to the difficulty of getting horses and provisions &c and owing to desertions and c.
I shall march to day with only about 30 men, all regulars except 4. I shall however go out and do my duty
If I can be sacrificed, unless I receive new orders to countermarch, Our affairs are gloomy indeed the people are cold and indifferent, they are worn down and
Exhausted with the war, and in consequence of dissensions between Contending and rival Chieftains, they have
lost all confidence in their own Government's affairs
You have no Idea of the exhausted State of the Country
Volunteers can no longer be had or relied upon, a speedy
organization, Classification and draft of the Militia
is all that can save us now, a regular army is necessary
But money cannot be raised
But money can be raised on Texas is gone to ruin, without it war cannot
be again carried on in Texas, the patriotism of a few
has done much; but that is becoming worn down,
I have shamed away, even, I have used my personal credit
and have, every effort day or night since I received orders
to march, and with all this exertion, I have barely been able
to get horses and equipments for the men I have, under
I send you a list of men who deserted on the road from
Washington and San Filipe to this place, I understand from
rumor that the Commandant Genl, Sam Houston is gone to San Filipe
will you be good enough to show this communication to him or send him
word to me as I wish to be in communication with him, I have the honor to be

Commandancy of Bryan
Feb 14. 1836

His Excellency Smith Governor of Texas,

Sir

We had retained Mr Williams for the purpose of laying that the Garrison is in a very destitute situation we have but a small supply of provisions and are without a dollar, We therefore take leave to call the attention of you Excellency to the necessity of sending us provisions and clothing as soon as possible, we have received no pay since we have been in service, we have not received a dollar since we have been in service, we have not received any clothing since we have been in service, we have not received any pay since we have been in service,

We have received 500 dollars from the sale of the Land, we have applied it to the purchase of provisions and clothing for the Garrison, we have not received any pay since we have been in service,

We have the honor to be your obedient servants

[illegible]

provisions and clothing. None has been given, or loaned to Individuals privately for the use of their army and none has been received.

Mr Wing from Alabama gave or loaned $500 in the presence of -- Jefferson and on his pledge that Texas would Repay the money loaned for the present to the Committee for the use of this garrison Especially. My despatches after receiving been detained two days to examine that said Bill as revised by the Committee that they had appropriated it otherwise. We cannot be fed and clothed on paper pledges, my men cannot nor will not stand this course of things much longer, But it appears that the Legitimate Executive has not had any return by Express from him, I wish to be advised, and I wish to keep up a correspondence with you Public or Private, Inclosed are our dispatches, They speak their import, Certain intelligence in confirmation of the fact that 1400 Troops of the Central army are on the Rio Grande making every preparation to attack us we received this morning.

Enclosed is a transcript of one address of the Comr, in Chf, of the Central army to his Subalterns,

I am Sir, Respectfully
Your obedt, Servt,
P. C. Neill,
A. Qr Mr Genl, at Bexar.

Velasco, January 27 1835.

To His Excellency Henry Smith
Governor of Texas

Dear Sir

Since the Leon Brown to Gov Smith to inform you of the arrival off the Bar of the Government Schooner, Liberty from New Orleans, The Liberty left the wharf on the 28 with Cannon under convoy of our vessel Invincible off the Bar on the eve of the 30th, In consequence of heavy gales we lost our convoy which I am sure have since arrived safely off the Bar,

The Liberty is filled with three months provisions, has received by 40 men, has two guns mounted, one 12 lb, Brass Piece, Since my arrival Mr McKinney has sent me the charge of the Government Schr Invincible with orders for Velasco, to which place I shall proceed this morning, having on board some provision for that place, I am compelled to take from the Liberty all her men, and put on board the Invincible, the service not admitting delay,

The incredible expence much delay before she will be ready for Sea, and I would beg leave to suggest that she be immediately ordered to the mouth of the River in case of the return of Capt. Wilkes, which will be in about 5 days with good Winds, for we are not acquainted (at Norfolk) but I have been at a Merchant on board & cannot give you the particulars. We can only get a pilot to go to the Capes, when there the Master of the Ship can give you the particulars and all the necessary information, when I beg of you to dispatch us again as possible.

With regard to myself I can only say that the Commissioners see no change of the Ship with an extraordinary expence of Money even the charge of a Cruize would be saved if obtained, I will do my duty in the Command of, and hope you will not consider it presumption in me to wish the Cause of good, I am sure both will be expedited with me to Sea, & I remain the Public's

I shall give the information you desire Mr. Nicholson, the Cause of this Enquiry you, On my return from Capt. Wilkes I shall await your orders at Norfolk, until I am regularly Commissioned and receive your orders I shall be at a loss until the, With my best wishes for the prosperity and welfare of Texas and yourself, I subscribe myself, Your obedient Servant & friend

P.S.

In leaving the Public, by the order of Col. Rhector Commissioners in charge of Mr. Brown and that the Cashier and Crew of the Ship and all Officers, Seamen &c to Sea, of the Cashier and Crew all Officers, Seamen &c to Sea, of the Cashier and Crew all Officers, Seamen &c to Sea, of the Cashier and Crew

army, and then is a prospect of my getting [illegible] or [illegible] made in the morning, I will leave here in two or three days for Nacogd, any information relative to the army or the affairs of Texas I should be glad to hear,

This will be handed to you by Mr, Rutland, who you will find a Gentleman in every sense of the words, he will be accompanied by a number of years, Col, Hewlan

Your friend and obt Servt

W, E, Howth

Killisgrange Near Milton, Northumberland County Pennsylvania Dec, 30, 1835,

To His Excy Henry Smith
Governor of Texas

Sir

H Steadman to Same

I address you as an individual selected from among my comrades, for the purpose of knowing whether you have appointed an agent in any of our Commercial Towns for the purpose of freighting the expences of those who have a desire to render you relief, If you furnish the means through any agency, you may have in Philadelphia of New York, to bear the expenses and equipage, There can be a company of young men from 30 to 35 and Probably amounting to 100 raised of the old Virginia & Pines whose Fathers fought and bled in the two Calamities Wars, Your immediate Answer will much oblige,

With Respect Yours &c,
H, H, Steadman

Velasco Janry 25, 1836

J Wharton to Same

I have the honor of informing Your Excellency of my arrival at this place, for the particulars in regard to the Instructions made by the Quarter Master General and refer you to my letter to the Commander in Chief herein accompanying, which in his absence you will open, The Commissioners have written to you which letters have not yet arrived, They made Contracts for two Loans the first for 200,000$ (which I believe) the second for 50,000 in each I understand that the Loans were made, the belief that the recent Commotion in every Section for Independence But of this they will inform you, Those titles are authentic (Newly executed) which sailed in under Convoy of the Liberty on which I came, which we received in 4 days and was fast, but it blew much before when I left, Genl S

was objected to a declaration of hostilities, but shortly after his arrival, he was, on application, furnished and could get no assistance under such a declaration, The Commissioners bought the vessel Cutter Lexington and placed her under command of Hamilton, Hamilton under their Superintendence is now fitting out for sea Maj. Hamilton thot with some slight repairs she would be as good as new, and that he expected to be ready to sail in twelve days

I have &c
John A. Wharton

Velasco January 26 1836

Dear Sir Mr Mckinney, who was appointed Captain of the Invincible to having requested Jerrican Edward Captain of the Liberty same to take the Command of the Invincible, I have directed Wm Brown to take Command of the Liberty and proceed forthwith to Copano with the vessels containing the clothing, provisions and munitions of war for the army of Texas under convoy, this transaction being in good faith for the advancement of the common Cause, and prompted by necessity, I do therefore request of your Excellency the necessary Commissions for the Masters, Browns without delay inasmuch as they being captured without them will be liable to suffer an ignominious death, I would further recommend the propriety of this Government appointment to the Command of these vessels, as I believe them capable and qualified, and confident to do the state some service of the expedition against Matamoras is sanctioned by Government, I should request that these vessels, Cooperate by sea, and drive off the mouth of the Brazos Santiago blockading the port and capturing all vessels under the Enemies flag, and that Government give instructions to this effect to the Commanders, I further wish that the Commissions be sent to Copano, The Liberty is in good order, well manned provisioned, and the fastest Sailer The Invincible appears to be as good a vessel as ever floated, of her tonnage & well Commanded, they are well calculated to annoy and harass if not destroy the Mexican Commerce,

I have &c,
John A. Wharton

Private, Washington 8 January 20 Ano, 1836

Sam Houston to Gov Smith

Dear Sir

I will set out in less than one hour for the Army, I will do all that I can, I am told that Frank Johnson and Fannin have obtained from the Military Committee orders to Proceed and redress Matamoras, It may not be so, There was no Quorum, and the Council could not give Power. I will proceed with great haste to the Army and there I can know all, I hope You will send me an Extract of Austins Letter about the New Confederacy, and what he says about the "Capitulations" of Bejar, Please write to me of this,

Your Sincere Friend
Sam Houston.

Private

Bejar January 30 1836.

Austin to Same.

To His Excellency Henry Smith.

Dear Sir

I ask the privilege of you to send to me here at this place, Writ of Election for the volunteer Army now under my Command, to authorize them to elect two delegates to the Convention to be held in Washington.

The reason I request this is, that not a man here under my Command, will or can have a voice in an election only by and this that method, They are all Centralists, They are all in favor of Independence, Such men should be represented in the Council of this Country, and that too by men chosen from among themselves,

The citizens have all declared for us, and will on the first day of next month take the oath to support the Provisional Govt. You have the highest regards of the whole Army, and you shall be sustained for your firmness and Philanthropy,

Yours in haste,
P. C. Neill
Lt Col. Comdg. at Bejar.

Quintana 28th Dec. 1835.

Quantonio Mexia to Same.

Sir

Since my arrival in Texas on the 2d inst. I have Communicated to Your Excellency all my movements, the views with which I came, the causes that prompted me to undertake my Expedition against Tampico, and finally that I was retiring to this place, with the intention of sending my Troops, Cannon, arms & Ammunition to the Brazos, During all this time I have not received a Single Official Communication, and the circumstance, such the last Succes at Bejar, convince me that my services on

ventive of any utility in Texas nor can they desirous or necessary
I am persuaded, I have determined to return to New Orleans
where, acting in concert with the Federalists in the Interior
I shall be able to employ my time and person in the common
cause of the Nation, which I believe is one with at present
Texas sustains according to its publication to the Nation in
the declaration of the Consultation of the 7th November last.

I leave herewith 2nd Francis Tuckerman Esq. the
Cannon arms and ammunition which belonged to my
Expedition in order that they may be sent to the Copano
agreeably to the resolutions of the Honorable the Genl Council

I am your Excellency's
Obt Servant.
Jose Antonio Mexia.

Bear February 11. 1836.

To His Excellency Henry Smith
Bear Sir

G B Jameson to Same

I have been in the field on actual duty more than four months and have not lost one hour from duty on account of sickness nor pleasure, but have served my Country in every Capacity I possibly could, when I left home it was with a determination to see Texas free and Independent, Sink or Swim die or perish, and I have sanguine hopes of seeing my determination consumated, there is still a Powerful force at Rio Grande, say 2000 certain, the last accounts we have is that they were preparing Forty Boats to march against us, we know not when they may come, we are badly prepared to meet them, tho' we will do the best we can, a great number of the volunteers here will leave tomorrow as the end of their 2 months is up, have no pay, no clothes, & nor no provisions, hear encouragement. For patriotism who have stood by this Country in the hour of Trial, for each for four months, we are now 130 Strong Col. Crocket and Col. Travis both here and Col. Barrie in Command of the Volunteer forces. Col. Neill left to day for home on account of our Children and his Family, in consequence of their ill health. There was great regret at his departure by all of the men, tho he promises to be with us in 20 days at furthest. We have nominated two delegates from the Army to represent us in the Convention which I hope will be received, as we were not allowed the privilege of voting here, they are both staunch Independence men & damning altho Texan both,

I have some improved demonstrations to make and this You of our Fortress, whereby fewer men and less artillery will be required in case of a siege or an attack. Patriotic are all Straight here and every man in the Army your friend, I have named to Genl. Houston, this Col. Hill & others that, I would like a permanent appointment in the Engineer corps, and know that my country will reward me as I may merit

Yours very Respectfully
S. Rhea Jamieson

Columbia 2d February 1836

Dear Sir

I have seen and heard a great deal in relation
G.W.Poe to the Council matters since I have been here, and I beg leave
to to state to you, now my firm adherence to the Governor of Texas
Same, who signed my commission, If you would say what we shall do for one have heard Houston is no longer General, but that Fannin is appointed, for any information if you give me some orders and inform me what will become of the Army &c, I would esteem it an honor,

Yesterday an election was held here this result, Byrom 46 Wallace 42, Cullinsworth 37, Brigham 35 The opposition ticket at highest was not more than 19, the result from Brazoria, I have not heard

I shall remain a few days at San Antonio, If I can be of any service to you there or command me in all things

Yours Truly
George W. Poe

Head Quarters, Goliad Feby 17 1836

To His Excellency Henry Smith
Sam Houston Governor of Texas.
to
Same

Sir

I have declared
that through Love to Invasion for the purpose of
raising arms & supplies for the invasion army, three
hundred or more Indians of the Cherokee, Shawnee,
Kickapoo and many other friendly tribes, that I am
to meet in person at Head Quarters as early as
practicable, if they agree to serve six months, that I
is authorized to offer as an inducement, seven Thou-
-sand dollars to equally divided among the Individuals
engaged, in addition to the seven thousand dollars, he
is directed to offer one half of all the property taken by
them, the other half being reserved to the Government,

The approbation of Genl Sam and the Council is

respectfully Solicited as I deem it the most efficient auxiliary corps to the main Army, that can be raised

I have the Honor to be
With Great Respect
Your obt Servt
Wm Austin
Comdr, &c Chief of the Army.

New Orleans February 13 1836

Thos F McKinney To the Government of Texas
John Mallin
Gentn

to Having witnessed
Same, the grand necessity of Keeping your agents in this
simply protected, and knowing you have funds here
I take one moment to recommend that these funds, say
$10.000 be placed in a condition that your agent here can
use them, without them their credit and that of our country
must suffer, I have been very often and earnestly requested
to examine their Books and accounts which I will do before
leaving and have no doubt will find all Satisfactory
They are indefatigable to my own knowledge, I also
need money but they need it more because the country
will suffer if they dont get it, I will work out my
own Salvation.

Sincerely Your obt Servt.
Thos F McKinney

New orleans February 14 1836

To the Foreign Agents of Texas
in the United States, Genl. Austin, Genl Wharton & Dr,
B, T, Archer, Agents

Feeling the deepest interest in the
welfare of our adopted Country and consequently the
greatest concern when we see her likely to suffer in
Credit or reputation we cannot forbear to inform you
of the critical situation at this moment, a few words
and a plain Statement will be more than all that is
necessary. First our Agent here has been necessarily
Compelled to use more money than he has had here
belonging to the Government, Can I know this, necessity
of keeping up his Credit as it is directly connected
with that of our Country, they have numerous calls
and without immediate aid you will incur the
Consequences,

Your obt Servt
Thos F McKinney
John Mallin.

Nacogdoches 20 February 1836

Governor & Council,

Gentl.

I sit down for the first time to give you a correct detail of what I have seen and learned in relation to the affairs and situation of that portion of Texas in which I have been since I left San Antonio the people I saw and conversed with along and on the road to this place did not attach any blame to the Convention for Defeating Smith those persons that did not approve of it seemed indifferent and careless about it, The citizens of Nacogdoches think it was an act ridiculous and dangerous affair to write such a message,

Genl. S. F. Austin has written a Letter to Thomas F. Rusk, from Neworleans, dated the 18. of January in which he states that from all accounts received from Mexico the Federal party has joined Santa Anna to invade Texas and Exterminate the "rebels" as they call them, Genl. Austin therefore urges the Texians to make a declaration of Independence on the first of march next by the Convention, and hopes that there will be no division on the subject, He says further it is the only hope left, for the People of the U. States wish and Coo just it. And that the Cause of Texas and Liberty is rapidly advancing in the U.S. they have negotiated a loan of $20,000 for Texas provided the next Convention approves of it. which will be done as a matter of Course, they are also about about obtaining a loan of, 2,000,000

Mr F. F. Gray one of the stock holders in the loan of 20,000 is now in this place, he is a Virginian and a Gentleman

There is a company of volunteers (40) in full uniform, Cincinnati who leave this place for the seat of War, this morning There was Considerable Excitement as regards the election on yesterday as to the right of the Co. of volunteers exercising the right of Suffrage, But after warm harrangues they were permitted to vote and every thing has settled down quietly,

Col. T. J. Rusk will get a much larger vote, for the Convention than any one else, I think Rusk, Taylor, Roberts & Allen will be elected, from this Municipality, You must sustain Yourselves and at the same time pursue a sound consistent Course until the Convention meets,

Accept for Yourselves individually and as a body my best wishes for your welfare and happiness

Your Friend
Wyatt Hanks
per order
E. M. Cullen

Papers belonging to the Political Chief of the Department of Brazos, 1835=6.

Columbia 13 July 10 oclk at night

Mr J.B. Miller

W.H. Jack to J.B. Miller

You will receive by the bearer Genl. Mc Kinney, which contains matter of vital importance I should start up myself but my health is precarious and I fear the ride would much affect me.

The news is of such a character as to warrant me in believing that no time is to be lost. I am not prepared at this time to advise what course should be pursued but it occurs to me that you should call a definite action in the meeting at San Filipe until you can see Zavala.

I would recommend that you invite him to San Filipe and cause the delegates from the different jurisdictions to meet you at the same time.

The Steamboat Cuero last night returning yesterday evening and drifted back to the landing. She will be up.

Mc Kinney & Co

Dear Col.

Columbia July 17. 1835.

W.H. Sledge to Col Knight

I drop you a few lines by Col Eaton to inform you that the proceedings of the Committee of safety &c you will see and the proceedings of the other Convention will have gone down well with the people here generally and almost unanimously. Those here who were not for war, say nothing. Genl. Zavala visited us from last monday to Saturday in company with Bertram and Col. Austin for the purpose of feeling of the people on the subject of declaring Independence. They also intended us they stated to go on to San Filipe, but from the cool reception met with here, they left early on thursday morning for Velasco again. leaving us to shift for ourselves, but Zavala again arrived here last night, what he intends I do not know. The Americans count two Mexicans to head them if they are compelled to go to war they can find enough of their own people, to controll them, there are various reports here respecting his intentions, some say he knew nothing of our confusion until he arrived here, and that he came with the intention of locating himself on his lands, and that he has brought out various farming utensils &c. and some say he has been sent up to aid us

and a finding in our Independence. Since this commenc. at all events we must depend upon ourselves, and not upon an aspiring Mexican. Politico tis that all will be peace if matters go on as I think they now will. which tis fair for the people to show this firmness

Respectfully
M.T. Sledge

S.F. Austin to Committee.

Camp. Salado Oct 26. 1835

I shall move with the army to day to the Missions and pass the operations as fast as my forces will permit. I have but 400 effective men. Genl. Cos has about 700 or 800, and is well fortified. We need reinforcements. I shall persevere here My health is very bad. There has been skirmishing daily but no loss on our side. The members of the convention, except the Comp. and his Staff leave here to day to hold the convention on the 1st November or soon as they get a Quorum.

S. F. Austin

Guadaloupe de Vict. 28 oct. 1835

To the Committee of safety and correspondence San Felipe

Gentn

I write to inform you of our affairs here, the alarm which we was under a few days since and which I Col. Ira Groce informed you of has passed by with any attack on Goliad as was then believed. would be made Cos came here as convoy of Public stores for persons who it was believed would arrive here as recruits to our post, and also for the poor families of the Mission Refugio who was ordered here for safety and who have nearly arrived yesterday so that we now have every man of that place doing duty in the fort. A young man arrived last night from Goliad who says that on Tuesday from Goliad of 22 & 23 instant by Col. Bracken yesterday which informs, that there had been some skirmishing parties, 300 of the enemy attacked 100 of our picket guard at the distance of about 300 yards, that some 20 or 30 of our men took the Bush and got pretty near the enemy, fired and killed some, some of them, the rest ran off in disorder, one of them taken his Course for Goliad, where he got on the evening of the 26 and said the Soldiers were storming in Bexar, that the officers were encouraging to run away, when the last attack was made by Genl. Austin, after 18 rockets says that one of our men, which fired 10, of their picket Guard and took one prisoner, without firing his Gun.

Col. Bowie has possession of the Mission San Jose, and all the corn of the place, The Mexican says that Austin has possession of the Alamo and the Magazine, that the enemy occupies the town only on the west side of the river &c. Genl. Austin writes on the 22d that in 6 or 7 days he will have the place. He has sent to us at Labahia to send all the flour we can and a detachment with several cart loads will leave Goliad tomorrow for Bexar. We have just got correct information from La Pantaleon (Nueces) and they are watching for the fall of Bexar, when the Troops will take flight for Matamoras.

Myself and some others will endeavor to make a descent on that place with 15 or 20 men Call that can be spared and try to cut off their retreat, but I doubt whether we can effect this and leave enough men in the fort to do the necessary camp duty I have been appointed commissioner to treat with the Carankawas Indians I have seen the principle chiefs who express a wish to enter into a firm and lasting peace with us, and tomorrow is the day appointed to meet the whole nation on the San Antonio River 18 miles below Goliad, They see us the rulers of the country, and hence I have no doubt but they will be glad of peace for our interest and fear if not for our feeling, The plan of this treaty, I gave you respecting some days ago, has enabled us to have so as to do even more in the camp, who before had to guard families against these Barbarians, now no fears are entertained from them.

This campaign will of course end in a few days when I shall endeavor to have all these municipalities send members to the Grand consultation, this (Guadalupe) and that of Powers had previously elected their delegates to meet on the 15th. Goliad and Nacas had not done any thing, but I presume they will send members at the next call, I advise your Committee to write Col. J. Sims of this place, John McMullen of San Patricio, James Powers of Mission Refugio, and the Constitutional Alcalde of Goliad on the subject and inform them of the number of delegates to be elected, and of the time and place of meeting.

With sentiments of esteem and regard, Your ob't Serv't,

James Kerr.

A young man (name of Ada Flaco of Bexar) has, a few days since come here from La Vacas says that Genl. Alvarez in the South, has been Victorious against Santa Annas Army in two Battles in one of which Santa Ana lost one or 2 Gen'l & 30 men officers) that 1800 troops had left La Vacas and

sient towards Mexico, leaving only 400 in the City, and that the Editor of the L— Paper had manifested his most excellent abuse of Santa Anna,

Bexar 30, July 1835

Dear Sir

I received the following information from Mr Miller which he requested me to copy and forward to you and is as follows!

San Felipe July 26 1835

John W Smith

I received yours advising me in relation to the Texas, I have no use for him now, advise therefore that he be not sent at present.

All here is in a train of peace, the war and difficulties entirely put down and are preparing to leave the Country, they should now be demanded of the respective Chiefs, a few at a time, first, Johnson, Williamson, Travis & Williams and perhaps That is enough, Captain Martin, our revolutionary is now with God, where he should be, in favor of peace and his duty, and by his influence in a good degree has peace been restored, but now, they should be demanded the moment it is sufficient, The people are up, Say so and oblige one who will never forget his true allegience to the supreme authorities of the nation and who knows that with they are dealt with, Texas will never be at quiet, Travis is too a fault of trouble, Dr J.B. Miller disclaims his act in taking Arahuac, and he puts the breach,

D. Lorenzo de Zavala is now in Columbia attempting to arouse &c, Some him called for and he also will be delivered up. Williams Johnson and Baker are now on a visit to him, and no doubt conspiring against the Government.

Fail not to move in this matter and that quickly as now is the time.

Respectfully Yrs, Dear Sir,
James W. Miller"

I have this close, for an answer from the General to the Resolutions which you entered into at Gonzales, October the 8th of this present month, Col. Ugartechea this one the Genl, was much pleased with them, Mr Hodge arrived to day and will leave tomorrow for Gonzales, The bearer of this takes an order to the Ayuntamiento of Gonzales or to you direct, for the apprehension and delivery of Williams, Williamson, Johnson, Travis, Zavala & Baker, a like order is directed to the other Alcalde which if complied with will prevent the troops from going to the Colonies, and if not complied with they

certainly will go, the Col. observed me to day, that if these aggressors could be Rab, he would not go to the Colony, but in case they were not taken would disband & his troops march to the Colony for no other purpose but to get them no more at present but remains, Yours truly &c

Wm Whitaker

A True copy of the original,

Andrew Forbes

At a meeting to notice a large number of the Citizens of the district of Nacogdoches assembled at the Town Seals Saturday August the 15. 1835 Peter Ernest Bracken was called to the Chair, and Alf. Mc Logan appointed Secretary,

The meeting was opened by Mr. Wheelock with some remarks in regard to the Political State of the Country, and he expressed a desire that the Citizens present would exchange their Ideas freely and fearlessly in regard to the future course to be pursued by Texas,

Mr. Solomon P. Pool then handed in the following preamble and resolutions which were read to the meeting and adopted as follows:

Whereas Governments are formed for the national control of human actions, and for the preservation of human rights: when these objects are disregarded or abused, the ends of association are defeated and the Compact is virtually dissolved, Man in a State of nature is free to think and act as he may deem best for his own preservation, It must then be admitted that while in a State of nature he has the right of forming an association upon such principles as are best calculated to secure the sacred and unalienable of life, Liberty and the enjoyment of property Therefore

Be it Resolved that we as we have been united by the Mexican Government to be Citizens and supporters of the same, and having taken the oath to support the Federal Constitution, The Constitution of Coahuila & Texas, and the Constitution act, having rendered obedience to the same, we are yet anxious to preserve the integrity of our principles.

Resolved, That a disregard by the Federal Congress of the laws and constitutions of the Republic, the usurpation of our Chief Magistrate, the arrest of our members of the Legislature by the Troops of the Federal army and the invasion of a Foreign army, in a time of peace are not deemed, are Infringements of Tyranny, dangerous to

Liberty, and a violation of the principles on which we have been invited to become citizens of Texas.

Resolved, That we have no constitutional head to the Government of the State, that an armed power has deprived us of the right, and that a Military Chief with powers unknown to the Constitution has usurped sway over Governor, and imposed upon our feelings and patriotism a stupid degradation!!

Resolved That, our Citizens have been imprisoned for years by the Supreme Government of Mexico, without Trial & contrary to the express provision of the Constitution and Laws;

Resolved, That this meeting appoint Mr. James Bradshaw Genl. Sam Houston, Col. Thos. F. Rusk & Col Richardson Clarke to commence treaty with the different Indians Tribes within the limits of Texas, according to the promises made to them by the Mexican Government and whatever else they may deem proper to do the Indians justice, and preserve the peace with them,

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, any person or persons now residing in Texas or may hereafter become residents, that shall flee from or desert the Country in the event of an invasion, are unworthy to enjoy the rights of Citizenship, or hold any property in the Country,

Resolved That should any Section of the now exposed parts of Texas be invaded by an armed force that we will sustain them with all possible aid,

Resolved That we view war as the last light than that of a fearful scourge, and while it can be avoided it shall be our steady aim to preserve peace, but when the Question shall come of submission to arbitrary power or war, we will assert the principles of our Fathers, to live free or die in the defence of Liberty and our rights,

Resolved That Education and Economy, are adverse to the genius of the age, and at war with Standing Armies, and the rights of man, Therefore we are opposed to them in every shape or form in which they can be presented to the Citizens of Texas,

Resolved That Whereas the Citizens of the jurisdiction of Bexar, Brazoria, Austin, Matagorda and Colorado, have recommended that a General Convention of Texas be called for the purpose of remodeling the present and future Constitution of the Country, and whereas the People of Texas have been invited by the Ayuntamiento of Rio Grande, Victoria, Monclova, Tantamoras and the City of Saltillo to participate in the proposed plan of a central Government, It is therefore recommended that a General Convention of Texas be called to consider of this Subject,

After which the Meeting, was then addressed, to elevate the Propriety of adopting the resolutions as read,

The question being Put to the House "Shall this meeting accept the preamble and resolutions just read"? They were unanimously adopted, Col. Thos J. Jones then read the following preamble and resolutions

Whereas we have seen a Proclamation and resolutions issued by — Thompson who styles himself An officer of the Mexican Navy, ordering the citizens of departments not to assemble and organize themselves into Militia companies under the order the order issued by the Political Chief to the town, Now whereas that we view the conduct of Mr Thompson as an assumption of Power unauthorized by the Constitution, and do not admit his right to control the conduct of the civil officers of this County

Be it therefore further resolved, that we will sustain the Political Chief in executing the orders of the Governor to organize the Militia in obedience to the laws of this State, which resolutions were unanimously adopted,

On motion of Mr Peter Hotchkiss,

Resolved that we thank Genl Thompson the Gentlemen Comdt of Goliad & William A Wilbarger for manifesting the interest of his fellow Citizens in a Legal manner to the Colonel Govt.

On motion of Genl Thos Hunderson

Resolved that the Departments of Mexico having the most central, be requested to call the Provisional Government together as early as may be possible,

On motion of Mr Porter

Resolved that the Secretary forward a copy of the proceedings of this meeting to the Political Chief of each of the Departments of Texas

Resolved that the Chairman and Secretary sign the proceedings of the meeting,

On motion the meeting, adjourned,

Thomas Barnett
Chairman

William Logan
Secretary.

Commandancy General
Inspection of the Eastern
Internal States.

San Antonio de Bexar July 5th 1835

I have received your estimable communication of this Date and in answer to your request to forward one of our Rules, Regulations and Decisions of the Internal Government, I can only say that we have not time necessarily to comply with your request having the pleasure of receiving new Reglas of this State which are now more necessary than ever before to us

The authorities of Texas Wish to deal with one candor to question to the general laws of the Republic, and to the additional to the Supreme Government, and that you may give a clear proof of what it is necessary that you should without loss of time to the determination of Don Lorenzo Zavala, who has arrived at Colombia, and died here to Texas in order that he may be brought time to the part of law the Commissioners within to the Federal States.

Signed, that you will do as I have formed the respect plan of your Judgement and upon the Supplement of your obligations, I wait to your honor the Protestations of my most distinguished Esteem.

God & Liberty, Matamoras August 7 1835

Juan N. Seguin

Ayuntamiento of Colombia
Aug 11th 1835

At a meeting of the Ayuntamiento of the town of Colombia on this day called Friendly for the purpose of the Ayuntamiento the Corporation and inhabitants of the Municipality to assemble at the Court House of the County and to adopt such Resolutions Patriotic & Republican Citizens of Texas should be called to take such Resolutions as may be calculated to promote the general good.

Whereas, the Ayuntamiento views with the deepest regret the present alarming crisis of our affairs, and at the same time anxious to avert all necessary and concerted Measures generally and also to take in relation to the General Government and to promote as far as practicable the true interest of Texas Generally,

It was resolved, that the Ayuntamiento of this Municipality be divided into — Districts of — for the purpose of electing Delegates to meet in Convention at — on the — day of — at the hour of — for the purpose of taking into consideration the political condition of our country generally, and particularly to adopt such measures as may be necessary in relation to the General Government and the Political Chief of Texas, in accordance with the Constitution and the Federal Union of Texas, and in case of the absence or indisposition of the Political Chief or any of his Secretaries, that they proceed to elect from among themselves, such persons as may be necessary to fill the vacancies, that they proceed to elect

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Gaunier, the bearer of this Communication, a fuller and fuller
Statement of the affairs of this Country, will be ready according
the intentions of the Provisional Executive, every his measures
that may be adopted for the protection of our adopted Country
from Misrule & tyranny &c. All Communications, Plans to de-
act under power to use, to be laid before the Committee of Government
The Seamen to join and early embark have every Encouragement
held upon

Citizen Genet
Sine Notis

Sir

The late unlimited and open intercourse subsisting between this
Municipality by the mail boat, renders every information
which can come of the latest, the wisest course the
pursuement of the Citizens, and the speedy dis-
arming the malcontents, which the Legislature have authorized
of this Province by measures by the armed force under the
Queen, under the Command of Lieutenant Governor Simcoe, can be
daring enterprise and the right and determination of this
Municipality, that I cannot but feel it incumbent upon
that the Country interests entrusted from Superior to
their own limits, and the restraint from intermeddling with the
Police regulations of this Municipality, I beg at all times to re-
gitimate authority and disobeying the summary and order
which then existed, I should have hesitated on with Legal information
but when crimes of such enormous magnitude, involving such
dangerous consequences, one penetrable by every eye, and which
can frustrate the interest reputation and responsibility of every Sub-
ordinate in this Jurisdiction, by oath of office, and allegiance
to my Country, and by duty as a Christian public servant, irresis-
tibly impels me to avert the flagrant injury in such manner
as expedient by and the urgency of the case may point out,
In this disagreeable unpleasant duty the right to exert every energy
commanded towards the attainment which, and always
like they made no provision, demand or compliment of any sort
but stole a march while our whole Militia by disarming
Security, and actually landed their troops in the Town of Sandwich
with several pieces of Artillery and other military equipments
before their object could be correctly ascertained, such was the
fact, and such is the amount of stand we have been induced
from aliens to Citizens from humanity to restrain, by the unbound-
ed liberality of this Nation, and they are never ready to pay its
vowed debt of gratitude, which they owe to the disinterested
Magico, under the blood of Washington, Lamenting our civil affli-
ctive Situation must arrest, for the present what of me.

[illegible] for me and that of me[illegible] to keep order.

Everything is in disorder, and numbers desert daily and Sanitary measures are adopted, to which Insubordinate and ill disposed to the Laws of our Native Government, will give rise to Epidemic Communicable to Fever for your intelligence

Edward Tilney

Lt. Commanding of Calcutta Dec 3 1837

To the Political Agent of the [illegible]

Department of Navigation [illegible] A true copy for the Imperial Government,

Signifying of the Department [illegible] the Political Agent of Darjeeling

by Native Agents

[illegible] of the Government of Darjeeling

[illegible] of the Government of Darjeeling

[illegible] of the Government of Darjeeling

The meeting also appointed a committee of Vigilance, consisting of the
individuals Colo Fowler, Thomas Sims, George Hall, Col Thos
J Logan, Chairman of the Committee I charter it my duty
to make you acquainted with these occurrences and to inform you,
that notwithstanding the efforts of a few persons who have
been making in their efforts to misrepresenting our views and keeping
back an expression of public opinion, the real cause which
has united the People of Brazoria and their sons of Texas in
the maintainance of their Liberties and Rights could solely attributed by them
shoulder to shoulder in defence of the Republican principles embraced
in support of the Cause of this Constitution,

It is of the utmost importance that a consistent Communication
should be kept up between this place, San Felipe de Austin, Bejar
and other parts throughout the Country. Perhaps Gen Sr, would
suggest some Plan for regulating the mode of communication,
means extremely Salutary of obtaining correct information from time
of what is taking place, and what, you will as you have been invited to
collect intelligence) on the intentions of the Mexicans &c, coming
towards Texas, all of which information, please to direct under
cover to me, that the same may be placed before the Committee
when received, It would be highly gratifying to the committee to
receive communications relating to the present state of affairs as
often as possible,

With Respect &c,

John Potts

To Patrick B, Miller Esqr,
P. Chf. Dept. Brazos

Copy

Jurisdiction of Mexico

To the Political Chief of
the Department of Brazos

Copy

Excellent Sir

I have officially communicated to the Supreme Government of the Nation the organization of the Militia of this municipality, with a Commission subscribed by the Governor and Secretary to accomplish said organization and establishment, and also to request to whom the direction of the Committee of Safety should be addressed in order to have a good and efficient co operation with, and to know what is your opinion by the means to accomplish this organization, as already made by the Supreme Government,

The plan in short is this, the municipality has been divided into Companies, their numbers Commanders assigned to Companies after have been elected

In which proceedings and enclosed, and a receipt will be sent on the 25th to Commissioner's office.

Our Lawyer recommended us give bond for costs but we refused to do so knowing that the Government would not dare to take advantage of us. The Agent has always been very polite to Your Excellency, that the people have always treated him well & your Excellency, that the proceedings could arrangements have been made to prevent delay.

Your last requisition has been promptly attended to and your Excellency's & Delegates meeting Your Excellency as required for the benefit of our constituents, The Labor of this Commissioner's, Col Barrett, will give pleasure Excellency's time and attention.

We Hope Excellency that your Excellency's Commission will be issued. The Agent's instructions to give every aid in the accomplishment of your purposes.

By order &c, Scott Richardson Secy.
Samuel Hefflebower Asst.

Chairman of the Commissioners
on Delegates

We Delegates of your Department having information of the object of your Mission, & knowing your wishes, have called on the Commissioners, the Chief of the Cherokees, who have the Authority of informing you, that a Commissioner by Congress to settle your business with the Government of your Country, and

Transcription Electrical Copy. 1835

To All to whom these Presents
Shall Come Greeting

See page 148.

Permit me to take this liberty of addressing you although unknown, and not being in your department, but in the present critical state of our little Republic have been induced to take this step and if as much as any one citizen can do for the general Government of our Country can be done for the preservation of our rights, I am determined to do it, and by the assistance of God I hope to succeed in the object I have in view, I do this that San Jose Nacogdoches may not declare itself free & Sovereign and his principles, and I entreat you by the love you bear to God to Texas & to Liberty to use your influence with the Governor and Council of Coahuila to call together as soon as possible a convention of the Representatives of the people of Texas, who have assembled at San Felipe de Austin & have taken into consideration the alarming state of our political affairs, and have come to the unanimous conclusion to petition the General Congress of the United Mexican States to establish a separate State government for Texas, to be called the State of Texas, to consist of the present Department of Texas, and to be one of the United States of Mexico, and to be governed by the Constitution & laws of the General Congress of the United Mexican States, and by the Constitution & laws of the State of Coahuila & Texas, and that the Convention will petition the General Congress to appoint Stephen F. Austin Governor of the State of

[illegible] each the remainder off in detail as they have to Come the Seven
months, this object Can easily be effected as the Situation of the
Country and this Season affords the greatest advantages for our designs
Let it be no longer said that the Land Speculators were the primary
cause of the arrest of our Rulers authorities, for it was any disposition
shown. but at the Time of Coming he will see that the Head ordered to
arrest, & that he had given his orders accordingly to officers of the different
Stations to arrest them as soon as they attempted to move for across
as Durango & Chihuahua, Tejas would not consent to have the Militia
disbanded which was an object intended to pave the way to the intention
of Santa Anna to obtain dominion with less opposition, I shall be happy to hear
from Him on the receipt of this and to know your opinion, but I know
more remark to make, Now is Canvassing must be done and that Quick
before all the Togas arrive, if they are permitted to Come during us it will
lead much trouble, than otherwise now it will not cost any thing Comparatively, I am remain yours this Liberty that I have taken as
also the disconnected mode of this letter, but as it will appear in
view to you will also the Sentiments of the People, of this District

Yours very Respectfully
John P. Sims

See page 148

Lieutenant of Dragoons
Guadalupe, or Mexico
To the Honorable Congress, Texas Political Enemy.

Sir, I have received with the Political Circular of the Government directed to Judge with the Regulations of Militia Musters ordered the Election of Delegates from this Municipality, to meet the Political Chief at San Felipe on the 1st August next, to represent the Feeling of these Communities and to Consult there on the most Prudent and Proper Measures to be adopted in the present distressing State of the Country, which the Decree of Said Meeting & Circular, also Enclosed notified of their existence and requested a Strict & Literal Compliance with for the Purpose Specified of, at this Time the Political Chief invested of this Department to Judge with the Regulations of Militia Musters, in order to the Election of Delegates

To His Excellency, the Political Chief of the Department of Burgos

The undersigned Citizens of this Town, called Compromisarios or Commissioners of Electors appointed by the unanimous vote of a meeting of the Citizens specially convened in pursuance of previous notice duly given to this object by Commissioners of the Town Exg. informations of the Causes which called for such meeting, together with a Summary of its Proceedings,

Respectfully represent that duly they proceeded accordingly, by stating the following facts: That at the time of holding such meeting for the purpose of electing Delegates to meet upon Electors in Convention the Records of this Municipality was used the Census for ascertaining the number of persons entitled to vote, which was ascertained, by the last Enumeration of Inhabitants, made in the Year 1833, that any of the Citizens was found to have been absent for about the same length of time, as a Citizen of the United States of this North, thereby depriving the People of this Municipality of the benefit for the time being of the services of an appointed Municipal Official, who, having to form the majority of Commissioners together in primary Assemblies, for the purpose of electing a voice in the Choice of the Provincial Delegation, their proceedings in such meeting were fraudulently Carried on by the part of their having been previously told in private Meetings of persons Friendly to the Administration only 25 or 26 votes had been taken, thereby to the prejudice the advantage of being represented by the vote of a minority of not less than one tenth part of the Votes of the Municipality, or of Commissioners, together for the purpose of obtaining of a Candidate a more General Expression of Public sentiment, both with respect to the Representation and measures to be adopted.

Placed in this dilemma, they could not hesitate entertaining to Friends, they unanimously adopted the latter, had a meeting in terms stated in their Commission, elected the undersigned to hold the Election here, invited their fellow Citizens of the adjoining Precincts to unite them in the choice of said Delegation, distinctly expressed to the many of them, and the time would permit, and have succeeded in obtaining an General vote somewhat agreeable as the very short period left them would permit, but they found that notice of the proceedings would be necessary of the People in that above quoted, could be received as a fair expression of the Public sentiment, especially at a Crisis so momentous as the present, the undersigned have Certified as instructed by the meeting herein referred to, the election of the Delegates, both in the way and Manner above specified, and by leave humbly to Communicate the result of the Same to the Head of said Department

Hon. Executive,

All which is respectfully submitted by Sir, Your Ex. most Obedient Servant, God Liberty

Geo. M. Bibb Chm.
Jas. Ingraham
S. H. & H. Hamilton
W. R. Royall
John L. Alford

Committee of Elections
P. Madison

Montgomery July 29, 1835

Precinct of Tuscaloosa July 4, 1835.

Sir

In compliance with a request made by the Committee of Elections assembled in this Precinct I beg leave to present to your Hon. the following,

The People of this section of the Country appprehending evils from the numerous reports that are in circulation respecting the present Political Situation of the Country, assembled for the purpose of communicating on the best means to pursue and adopt and accordingly the People did meet for the purpose in the Town of Columbia, have adopted the resolutions* as handed at that meeting with some few exceptions, the conduct of those persons as Representatives entrusted with Legislative powers in accordance with Law, Precedent and Usage, to adopt that the people have a right to instruct their Servants to whom entrusted a delegated to them subject to the Constitution of this adopted Country when administered by equality to this Spirit and design, For our observation since that People of this Country are determined to adhere strictly to the laws and Constitution of this Country.

Signed Respectfully
Samuel Rogers

Note.
* vide ante